

## AFRICANS NATIONS CUP: Results & Stories

**AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH**

# SOCCER

**VOL 17 No.757 - TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1996**

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# KAREMBEU:

# THE BEST IN OCEANIA

# ABBAS SAAD:

*It's time  
to get  
serious!*

# 1996

## 'All Entertainment' Squad



# OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS

## ROUND 2

### SOLOMONS 2 VANUATU 1

A goalkeeping error 11 minutes from time gave the Solomon Islands a 2-1 win over Vanuatu.

A drive at goal in the 79th minute was fumbled by Vanuatu keeper Edy Mansale, allowing Solomons striker Wilson Beuka to put the ball into the net at the second attempt.

Earlier, the Solomons' Richard Bobby opened the scoring in the fifth minute when he was unmarked in front of goal and headed in a cross from teammate Sam Dara.

Vanuatu cancelled out the goal in the 18th minute when a cross by John Karl to the goal mouth was forced in by George Kalo.

Vanuatu had a final chance to equalise in the 85th minute when a shot at goal by Kalo was blocked by the Solomons.

The game was error-ridden with both sides unable to string passes together or provide finishing touches when they did create goal-scoring opportunities.

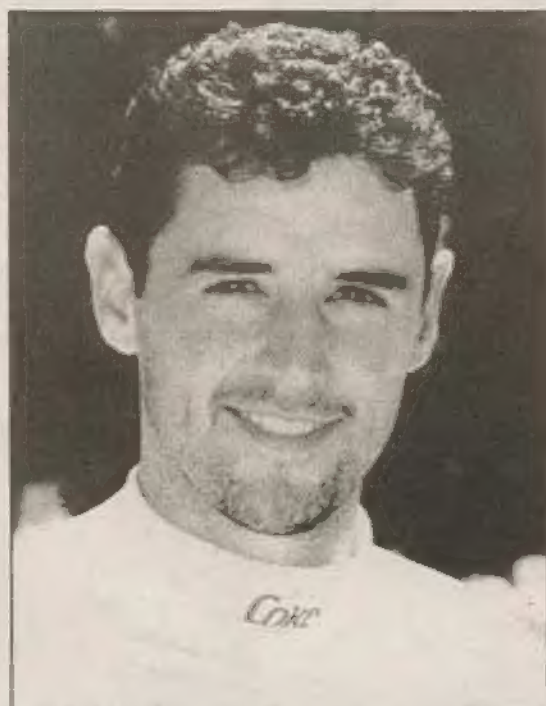
However, despite the errors, the game was entertaining due to the lax marking and tactical naivety of both sides which caused a number of goal-scoring opportunities.

### FIJI 2 NZ 1

Fiji sprang the first upset with a 2-1 win over New Zealand.

The Fijians delighted the crowd with their combination of physical strength and flair and capped off the night when captain Esala Masi scored the winner in the 78th minute.

Fiji opened the night's scoring in the seventh minute when Manoa Masi, the cousin of Esala, beat the



Kevin Muscat: Opened Australia's account against Solomons.

offside trap and from an angle shot past New Zealand keeper Mark Paston.

New Zealand hit the woodwork twice in the search for an equaliser and it was a case of third time lucky when a cross from Aaran Lines was headed into the net by Daniel Hay.

However Fiji on the stroke of halftime proved they were to be hard competitors when a pass from striker Livai Dugucu went just beyond the foot of Manoa in front of an open goal.

Manoa again menaced the New Zealand defence in the 56th minute when a shot was deflected by Paston onto a post.

A series of fine saves by Fiji keeper Joela Baledrokadroka kept his side in the match and earned the praise of his coach after the match.

Fiji capitalised in the 78th minute when Livai cleverly flicked a pass into the path of Esalo who crashed it home.

New Zealand had an excellent chance to equalise

in the 83rd minute when another fine save from Joela fell into the path of Kiwi substitute Che Bunce who hit the upright from point-blank range.

## ROUND 3

### NEW ZEALAND 10 VANUATU 0

**Hat-tricks to midfielders Danny Hay and Simon Elliott helped New Zealand trounce Vanuatu 10-0.**

The floodgates opened in the second minute when Elliott accepted a pass from Mark Foy who shot truly from close range.

Hay used his height advantage to successfully meet a cross from Werder Bremen player Aaran Lines two minutes later.

The tall midfielder found himself free inside the box again in the 23rd minute to hammer home his second and put the game beyond Vanuatu's reach.

He completed his hat-trick with one of five headed goals seven minutes before half time when he found the back of the net following a clever corner kick.

Defender Ivan Vicelich completed the first half scoring when he fired in a ball dropped by Vanuatu 'keeper Edy Mansale who could not handle the height of Foy who forced the spill when he challenged him for the ball in the air.

Vanuatu had its first shot on goal 15 minutes into the match but should have scored in the 36th minute when the ball fell into the path of Semu Karlyp in the penalty area but he curled the shot wide.

Elliott stepped up a gear in the second half to complete his hat-trick with a 63rd minute strike and a clever chip over the struggling Mansale 16 minutes before full time.

Substitute Sean Fallon celebrated his arrival on the pitch when he followed a stunning run from Mark Burton down the right flank to head home.

Fellow substitute Jeremy Seales and defender Che Bunce completed the rout with goals in the 71st and 78th minutes respectively.

### AUSTRALIA 4 SOLOMONS 0

**Australia went to the top of the table with a comfortable win but Australian coach Thomson was not happy with the way his players performed.**

"They played very ordinarily. The number of chances we've missed is very worrying," he said.

"We were shoddy and sloppy. The Solomons did well. They ran and chased but the boys (Olyroos) need a kick up the backside."

Resting star striker Mark Viduka and first choice 'keeper Frank Juric, the Olyroos still had too much polish for the eager



Ross Aloisi: Scored for Australia against the Solomon Islands.

Solomons who tried valiantly to make their mark on the game.

Captain Kevin Muscat put the Olyroos in front when he capitalised on the Islander's inability to clear from a corner kick to find space in the penalty area and shoot.

Three minutes later Solomons' defender Sikele Buga was penalised for a crude tackle on Danny Tiatto in the penalty area and Gabriel Mendez scored from the spot to take the wind out of the Solomons sails.

The Islanders showed promising patches during the match and demonstrated why they are considered the "Brazil of the Pacific" with a series of impressive counter attacks which kept Olyroo 'keeper Clint Bolton busy.

Richard Bobby had a great chance to score in the 17th minute but he lost control of the ball at the crucial moment and Bolton rescued Australia.

While the Solomon

minutes later with Goran Lozanovski scoring twice in three minutes to complete the purple patch.

Lozanovski's double, one from the goal line and the other after finding space in the area to shoot wide of the 'keeper, was a deserved reward for what was arguably his best match for the season.

"He was brilliant. He's come from nearly being out of the squad to being on the verge of Socceroo selection," coach Eddie Thomson said of Lozanovski after the game.

Playing the unfamiliar role of fullback, he fed off the silky skills of Mendez who dominated midfield all match.

The match turned into a training drill for Australia with the last four goals, by Viduka and Ante Milicic and two to substitute Norman Tome, all coming with no pressure applied to the forwards.

## NZ 2

### SOLOMONS 0

**A sluggish New Zealand overcame a stifling afternoon to beat the Solomons Islands 2-0.**

The match did little to inspire the small crowd as a superior Kiwi outfit failed to play to its best in 34 degree Celsius heat.

A goal in each half accounted for the Islanders.

Unmarked defender Ivan Vicelich put New Zealand ahead when he hammered home a low cross in the 28th minute to cap off a period of sustained attack from the Kiwis.

Midfielder Mark Burton created the second goal in the 64th minute when he set up Malcolm McKenna to fire in a pin point cross to Simon Elliott which was headed home to complete the scoreline.

New Zealand looked certain to score seven minutes into the match when Burton fired a shot in from point blank range after a great cross from Gavin Wilkinson but Solomons goalkeeper Peter Mautoa pulled off a fine reflex save.

New Zealand coach Bobby Clark was happy with the result when the blistering heat was taken into account. "The Solomons are a very skilful side and they made us work very hard for the ball. That was the hottest we've ever played in," Clark said.

"We missed a couple of chances early and that was worrying because we knew what the Solomons could do."

While the Islanders looked dangerous on the counter attack they could not they could not beat Kiwi 'keeper Mark Paston.

## ROUND 4

### AUSTRALIA 10 FIJI 0

**Australia reaffirmed its status as Oceania's soccer powerhouse with a 10-0 massacre of the previously unbeaten Fiji.**

Fiji were no match for the more skilled Olyroos in a spiteful clash which resulted in one Fiji player being sent off and another five being cautioned by New Zealand referee Derek Rugg.

A glancing header from Mark Viduka and a score after a goal area scramble from Ross Aloisi in the first half set Australia up to inflict the drubbing.

Fiji, lost the plot a minute into the second half when defender Emosi Baeinuku was sent off for a second bookable offence.

The Olyroos scored three goals in three minutes in a mesmerising spell as Fiji fell apart. Bad challenges on Gabriel Mendez and Danny Tiatto nearly put the match beyond the referee's control.

Temper soon settled and having put away a penalty in the 50th minute, Mendez booted a second past 'keeper Joela Baledrokadroka 14

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# AUSTRALIA FULL STEAM AHEAD

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Eddie Thomson, Australia's successful, intelligent, yet always cautious, coach of the high-flying and undefeated Olympic team, although quietly pleased with the enormous success achieved by his squad in the current Olympic Five Nation Qualifying Tournament in Adelaide, has many words of warning.

Thomson stated to ABSW late last night, "Sure we are undefeated after four matches. We have made a glorious start.

"Sure we have scored a massive 28 goals, 15 more than New Zealand, and of course I'm pleased we have conceded just one, by far the lowest and six less than the Kiwis have let in.

"But Australia just has to go on with the job.

"We are only half way through and have the same distance again to travel.

"We cannot afford any complacency whatsoever as anything can happen.

"Injuries, loss of form, suspensions, that business with the team-sheet which could heavily penalise us. Anything and many things can go wrong.

"Even against Fiji. Sure we beat them 10 nil, but we had to really fight till we led 2-0 before we could cut loose and open them apart. Don't worry they will get stronger and wiser in the second round.

"Even New Zealand. I was pleased last Sunday night with our 5-0 win over them. I honestly believe that was by far our very best performance to date even though we previously had wiped out Fiji 10 nil.

"I fully expect New Zealand will get better. They will plan and prepare well for the second round", Thomson warned.

## WORLD CLASS COACHING

A glorious feature during Australia's four out of four wins to date, has been Thomson himself.

Thomson's skills with his management of all his players, has been world class.

With geometric precision, the Australian boss has cycled his Olympic squad to perfection, making meticulous changes in all three of Australia's lines while keeping the 'Green and Gold' unit mobile, fresh and constantly on the boil. In addition he has added a sprinkling of tactical variation immediately any dangerous situations threaten to loom for his side.

His vast experience allows him to know exactly when to inject more pace, and on which flank. When to stiffen an area at the back. When to rest a certain line and pump in fresh legs. Above all, he has rotated every squad member to date with the exception of the young Adelaide defender, Richie Alagich, giving his squad a taste of the Olympic tournament.

But even the blond Alagich is certain to start on Thursday night against Vanuatu as a fullback.



Eddie Thomson: "The job is nowhere near finished".

Watching closely how Australia has ruthlessly ripped Fiji and New Zealand apart in the last two matches, one cannot help but wonder, just who are the defenders?

How many times did we see Australia's sweeper and skipper Kevin Muscat bob up wide on the right to whip in crosses into the box. How many times did we see marker Craig Moore flash down the left to sling in more crosses, or the towering other marker, Mark Babic, break down the middle to crack in a snap-shot at the target?

The degree of Australia's fitness, strength, courage and mobility, have been nothing short of remarkable, displaying a powerful, (if not ruthless) brand of football expected from far more mature Soccer nations such as Holland, Brazil or Argentina.

Is this Australia heading for Gold or Silver at Atlanta?

Thomson reminds us quickly that he still expects

the return from injury of his mobile attacking twin fullbacks, Sean Cranney and Ante Moric.

Australia's Olympic coach then went on to confess: "We over-trained the squad early quite hard the first week then slackened off last week.

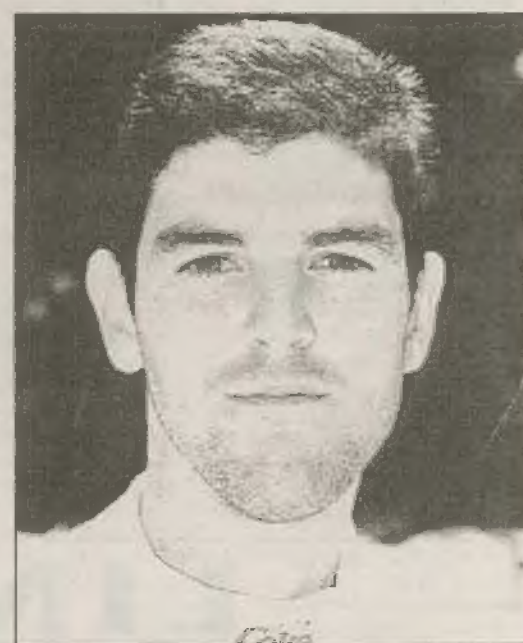
"But this week it's on again, full throttle.

"It just has to be. It can't be anything else", warned Thomson.

Australia tonight, (Tuesday), has a 'bye' with the next clash against Vanuatu on Thursday night in the late match starting at 8pm following the Solomon Islands versus Fiji at 6pm, again at the lush-green surfaced, Hindmarsh Stadium.

It's a little early for Thomson to release his line-up for Thursday's match but at this stage he is thinking of making some changes.

He is contemplating slotting in Marconi's strapping stopper, Luke Casserly to start in one of the marking roles and to possibly give a well earned rest to either Mark Babic or



Joe Spiteri: Australia's ace goalscorer with double hat-tricks.

Craig Moore.

He also wants to rest midfield playmaker, Gabriel Mendez and again bring in the lanky Sydney United left-sided midfielder Paul Bilokapic.

Another change could

see Australia's top goalscorer, the red-hot Joe Spiteri (already having nailed in double-hat-tricks) drop out of the attack and be replaced by United's highly talented marksman, Ante Milicic.

## OCEANIA OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	4	-	-	28	1	12
Fiji	4	3	-	1	10	11	9
New Zealand	4	2	-	2	13	7	6
Solomon Islands	4	1	-	3	2	11	3
Vanuatu	4	-	-	4	2	25	0

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# OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS

## Kiwis thrashed

**AUSTRALIA 5  
NEW ZEALAND 0**

Australia belted arch-rival New Zealand 5-0.

A hat-trick to striker Joe Spiteri was his second of the tournament.

The Kiwis had not touched the ball before Spiteri put the home side in front inside a minute when he glanced a header at the near post past Mark Paston after Goran Lozanovski set the cross up with a brilliant ball to Danny Tiatto.

An inspirational pass from Mark Viduka threaded Spiteri through for his second in the 15th minute which he tucked past the 'keeper with ease.

Paston's nightmare got worse five minutes later when Lozanovski, arguably the player of the tournament, waltzed through the midfield and cracked a shot on the run from 30 yards which dipped under the crossbar.

Gabriel Mendez provided the spark

for the Olyroos early but he injured his knee in a clash with an opponent and was substituted at half time.

While some of the edge was taken out of the Olyroo midfield, the goals did not dry up with Spiteri clinching his hat-trick, which followed his treble against Vanuatu in round one, 10 minutes into the second half when he used his body to work his way into a point blank scoring position and volley home.

Viduka got on the goal sheet two minutes later when he pounced on a poor attempt by New Zealand to clear the ball.

New Zealand, potent from the set pieces in its 9-1 rout of Vanuatu, also troubled Australia from dead ball situations but was comprehensively beaten in every department.

The Kiwis came close to scoring when Craig Burton beat Australian 'keeper Frank Juric to a cross in the 60th minute but the ball sailed inches over the crossbar.

## Magnificent Monoa Masi

**FIJI 4  
VANUATU 0**

Four goals to striker Monoa Masi helped Fiji sink Vanuatu 4-0.

The strongly-built striker scored a hat-trick in the first half, notching his fourth in the 46th minute.

Vanuatu made a promising start to the match with Henry Tommy and George Kalo working into goallscoring positions but a lack of finishing prowess kept Vanuatu scoreless for the third consecutive match.

Masi opened the scoring in the sixth minute when he capitalised on a mistake by Vanuatu's second choice 'keeper Raymond Timothy to knee a bouncing ball into a

vacant net.

Timothy failed to run off his line as a long ball was put into Masi's path and the forward chipped the ball over the 'keeper before he ran on to complete the goal.

An unmarked Masi latched onto a perfectly-weighted cross by Arjun Pillay to volley home his second in the 33rd minute.

He broke Vanuatu's off side trap on the stroke of half-time to complete his hat-trick and give Fiji a handy lead.

It took only 40 seconds of the second half for Masi to clinch his fourth for the match and sixth for the tournament. He ripped through Vanuatu's defence and cut across the goal before side-footing past the hapless Timothy.

## STAR PROFILE Frank Juric

**AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC  
GAMES QUALIFIERS**



**Date of Birth:** October 28th, 1973  
**Birthplace:** Melbourne  
**Previous Clubs:** Nunawading City, Springvale City, A.I.S.  
**Current Club:** Melbourne Knights  
**Position:** Goalkeeper  
**Nickname:** "F.J."  
**Marital Status:** Single  
**Occupation:** Student studying Bachelor of Applied Science (Sports Coaching and Administration)  
**Best Aspect Of Your Game:** Dealing with crosses  
**Most Difficult Opponent:** All strikers  
**Most Impressive Local Player:** Mark Viduka  
**Favourite Overseas Player:** Peter Schmeichel  
**Favourite Overseas Club:** Liverpool  
**Euro '96 Tip:** Croatia  
**What Qualities Make a Good Coach:** Have good communication skills, good knowledge of the game  
**Most Unwelcome Dinner Guest:** John Candy (if he was still alive)  
**Honours:** Vic State sides from Under 13s to senior squad, '93 World Youth, current Olympic Games and senior national team  
**Ambitions For 1996:** To qualify for the Atlanta Games this year plus again win League championship with Melbourne Knights  
**Ambitions After Retiring:** To coach and live a healthy life  
**Most Memorable Moment:** Winning the League championship last season  
**Hobbies Outside Soccer:** Golf and wind-surfing  
**Best Goal You've Seen Scored:** Damian Mori's world record  
**Favourite Food:** Pasta  
**Favourite Drink:** Southern Comfort and Coke  
**Car You Drive:** Holden V.P. Berlina  
**Favourite TV Show:** New Price Is Right  
**TV Show You Refuse To Watch:** All  
**Favourite Movie:** Current Affairs  
**Favourite Actor/Actress:** Seven  
Jean Claude Van Damme, Demi Moore  
**Preferred Music:** Top 40  
**Least Preferred Music:** Heavy Metal  
**Favourite Comedian:** Jim Carrey  
**Pet Hates:** All smokers  
**Special Advice To Young Players:** Always work hard to play to the very best of your ability  
**Person You Would Most Like To Meet:** My future wife  
By JOHN ECONOMOS

## LINE-UPS

### ROUND 2

#### FIJI 2

#### NEW ZEALAND 1

FIJI: Baledrokad, E Masi, Naquruwati, Rasoki, M Masi, Duguca, Work (Gata 71), Nabenu, Baleinuku, Kilaiwaca (Bokini 89)  
NEW ZEALAND: Paston, Harlock, Hay, Perry, Vicelich, Lines, Wilkinson, Fallon (Foy 57), Elliott, Burton, McKenna (Bunce 45)

SCORERS: Fiji: M Masi (7), E Masi (78)

New Zealand: Foy (38)

YELLOW CARDS: Fiji: E Masi (65)

New Zealand: Harlock (6)

SOLOMON ISLANDS 2

VANUATU 1  
SOLOMON ISLANDS: Mautoa, Surau, Omokirio, Taka, Wabo, Toata (Lui 88), Seni, Bobby (Forodo 81), Dara (Beuka 45), Buga,

Rukumana  
VANUATU: Mansale, Nicholas, Yatan, Molivaerua, Malessas, Obed (Thompson 81), Sailas, Karyd, Tommy (Felix 64), Kalo, Karl (Memmer 70)  
SCORERS: Solomon Islands: Bobby (5), Beuka (79)  
Vanuatu: Kalo (18)  
YELLOW CARDS: Vanuatu: Obed (22), Karyd (63)

### ROUND 3

#### NEW ZEALAND 10 VANUATU 0

NEW ZEALAND: Paston, Bunce, Harlock, Hay, Perry, Vicelich, Lines (McKenna 46), Wilkinson (Seales 51), Foy (Fallon 46), Elliott  
VANUATU: Masale, Nicholas, Thompson, Yatan, Obed, Sailas (Tommy 51), Karyd (Felix 76), Lauru, Memmer, Kalo, Karl

SCORERS: NEW ZEALAND: Elliot (2, 63, 74), Hay (5, 23, 38), Vicelich (31), Fallon (58), Seales (71), Bunce (78)  
YELLOW CARDS: Nil

#### AUSTRALIA 4 SOLOMON ISLANDS 0

AUSTRALIA: Bolton, Moore (Aloisi 46), Muscat, Casserly, Bulubasic (Lozanovski), Tiatto, Spiteri (Tome 63), Milicic, Bilokapic, Tsekenis, Mendez  
SOLOMON ISLANDS: Solodia, Omokirio, Molea, Taka, Wabo (Lui 77), Toata, Suri (Rifasia 58), Seni, Bobby (Beuka 73), Buga, Rukumana  
SCORERS: Australia: Muscat (23), Mendez (26 pen), Aloisi (47), Tiatto (90)  
YELLOW CARDS: Australia: Tiatto (47)  
Solomon Islands: Omokirio (15)

### ROUND 4

#### NEW ZEALAND 2 SOLOMON ISLANDS 0

NEW ZEALAND: Paston, Perry, Harlock, Hay (Seales 53), Bunce, Vicelich, Wilkinosn, Foy (Fallon 58), Elliot, Burton (Riddle 75), McKenna  
SOLOMON ISLANDS: Mautoa, Surau, Omokirio, Molea (Sasau 46), Taka, Wabo, Toata (Farado 46), Seni (Wasi 78)  
SCORERS: New Zealand: Vicelich (28), Elliot (64)  
YELLOW CARDS: Nil

#### AUSTRALIA 10 FIJI 0

AUSTRALIA: Juric, Muscat, Babic, Moore, Tsekenis, Spiteri (Milicic 71), Viduka,

Mendez, Tiatto (Bilokapic 54), Lozanovski, Aloisi (Tome 39)

FIJI: Baledrokadroka, Leka, E Masi, Naquruwati, Rasoki, M Masi, Duguca (Bulewa 58) (Gata 85), Work, Nabenu, Baleinuku, Kilaiwaca (Bokini 48)

SCORERS: Australia: Viduka (29, 76), Aloisi (32), Mendez (50 pen 64), Lozanovski (63, 65), Milicic (71), Tome (81, 83)

YELLOW CARDS: Australia: Lozanovski (73)

Fiji: Naquruwati (9), Baleinuku (15), Leka (50), Masi (50), Nabenu (51), Kilaiwaca (62)

RED CARD: Fiji: Baleinuku (46)

### ROUND 5

#### FIJI 4 VANUATU 0

FIJI: Sakasi, Bokini, Leka, Naquruwati (Rauqe 74), Khan, (Kilaiwaca 19), Pillay, Rasoki, M Masi (Kumak), Work, Nabenu, Gata  
VANUATU: Timothy, Nicholas, Yatan, Obed, Karyd, Tommy (Felix 61), Lauru, Memmer, Kalo, Karl, (Sailas 73), Thompson  
SCORERS: Fiji: M Masi (6, 33, 45, 46)  
YELLOW CARDS: Vanuatu: Timothy (63)

#### AUSTRALIA 5 NEW ZEALAND 0

AUSTRALIA: Juric, Lozanovski, Babic, Muscat (Casserly 69), Moore, Mendez, Tsekenis (Bilokapic 46), Tome, Spiteri, Viduka, Tiatto  
NEW ZEALAND: Paston, Perry, Harlock, Hay, (Seales 76), Bunce, Vicelich, Lines, Wilkinson, Fallon (Foy 58), Elliot, Burton  
SCORERS: Australia: Spiteri (1, 16, 55), Lozanovski (20), Viduka (57)  
YELLOW CARDS: New Zealand: Wilkinson (29)

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## EDWARDS SIGNS FOR OLYMPIC AGAIN



Alistair Edwards signs on the dotted line as club president Jim Kelaiditis looks on.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Alistair Edwards, the globe-trotting striker from Western Australia and former Sydney Olympic Grand Final hero, has returned from England. Last week he signed an 18 month contract to play for Olympic for the third time.

Edwards became a hero with all Olympic supporters in the 1990 Grand Final which they won (their first ever national League Championship) when they defeated minor-champions Marconi 2-0.

Now the lanky, yet still slender 28 year old Edwards, is back and ready for action with the 'Blue and Whites'.

Just 10 minutes before half-time, Edwards latched onto a through-ball from midfielder Grant Lee. He split Marconi's twin defenders Robbie Wheatley and Jean Paul De Marigny wide on the right. He released a bullet-like rising left-footed drive from 15 metres that flashed into the top left corner of the target, giving Marconi's giant goalkeeper Bobby Catlin no chance. Just 10 minutes into the second half, Olympic's giant, Kiwi midfielder, Robbie Ironside scored from a corner taken from the left by Lee to give the enigmatic Sydney team what proved to be their ultimate and unassailable lead.

Both Edwards and Ironside made their nostalgic

re-acquaintance last week when the two turned up at Olympic's training session at Leichhardt Oval.

However both of these scorers of historic goals made vastly different comebacks for Olympic last Saturday night against Wollongong City.

Whilst Edwards unfortunately lasted just five minutes, Ironside 'wheeled' onto the pitch to score the third and final goal eight minutes from the bell and lift Olympic into tonight's (Tuesday) Cup quarter-final against John Kosmina's Newcastle Breakers in the Hunter city at 7.30pm.

Edwards still nursing his ankle packed in ice at the Camperdown Travelodge, stated to ABSW last night, "Although I was born in Perth, I have been missing from home since 1986.

"Back then I was drafted into the AIS, afterwards joining Sydney Olympic. I then left Olympic and played in Singapore with striker Abbas Saad for two years. I returned to Olympic for the 1992 season.

"I then went to Malaysia to play for Johore, again with Abbas, where we won the historic League and Cup 'double' under Michael Urakalo.

"From Malaysia I went back to Singapore where we lost the Cup Final but won the League. Then I had a season back in Malaysia in 1994 with Selangor where we made the semis, before I

signed with Millwall in England.

"At Millwall I was able to link up with fellow Aussie internationals David Mitchell and Jason Van Blerk which was great," explained Edwards.

Edwards found it tough going on the wet and heavy English pitches, adding, "It was tough at Millwall and although I played in eight full games in the first team, I was struggling with an injury to my groin for a long time.

"By now I was married (to Gracie) with two sons (Ryan and Cameron), and I was getting sick of travelling and wanted to come back to Australia to settle plus for many other reasons, including to do some work in the national League with UTS Olympic where Australia's coach Eddie Thomson could keep a closer track on my form.

"Of course I want to again play for Australia. Who doesn't?", smiled the ace-goalscorer.

Despite not having played for almost two months and obviously lacking match fitness, Edwards was rushed straight into the first team Brandon Park.

But alas Edwards' comeback with Olympic was less than glorious, and most brief to say the least.

Edwards lasted less than five minutes before having to leave the pitch with a nasty injury to his left ankle which now puts him in serious doubt for tonight's game.

## Kosmina denies interest in Olyroos job

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Soccer Australia has set up a panel of five, including Australian World Cup coach Eddie Thomson, SA Chief Executive Officer, David Woolley, plus a representative of the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Olympic Committee, to interview candidates for the full-time position of coach of the Australian Olympic Soccer squad.

They will conduct the interviews early next month.

S.A. last month advertised nationally for this most prestigious coaching position which attracted many applicants.

Why on earth did SA find it necessary to advertise nationally for this very important position?

Because it was politically correct to do so?

Surely the powers-that-be had some important names already in mind.

Surely Thomson as Australia's senior coach, should have been asked to submit his own list of prospective candidates. After all it will ultimately be Thomson that the successful candidate will have to work with.

But now it was rumoured on SBS Television last Sunday that this list has already been cut down to the following five very well known names - John Kosmina, Steve O'Connor, David Ratcliffe, Kenny Murphy and Raul Blanco.

Well now ABSW can reveal, exclusively, that Kosmina's name is not on the short list.

When ABSW contacted the former Australian World Cup captain and goal-ace late last night, he confirmed his name was not on the list.

The record goal-scorer with no less than 102 caps for Australia, Kosmina is one to never chew over his words, as he emphatically denied coveting the



John Kosmina: His name is not on the Olympic short-list.

representative coaching job.

"I have not applied, nor have I been invited to apply, for the position. I can guarantee you.

"However I must admit that I'm honoured that my name has been bandied around and that I'm rumoured to be on that list. But again I can assure you I have not even applied for that position, and won't.

"I also agree that such a very important position should not have been advertised. I believe that if you want someone, go out and get him.

"But at this stage I feel that I have a great responsibility to Newcastle Breakers. I have a contract to honour till the end of 1997 which I fully intend to fulfil."

With a Level 3 coaching qualification, and enormous international experience as a player - two World Cups plus an Olympic Games (1988) behind him - the 39 year old Kosmina, (always a winner), is aggressive and experienced enough, many believe, to have made a

worthy candidate.

The Candidates are:

**Raul Blanco** - aged 55, extensive coaching experience (almost 20 years) at club level, and at International level with Australia's World Youth squad since 1981. Winner of two NSL Cups, currently Head coach with West Adelaide as well as assistant coach to all four national squads. Very experienced.

**Steve O'Connor** - aged 41, former Australia international World Cup centre-back with 44 caps. Level 3 Coaching Certificate, four years as Staff Coach at the AIS, currently Technical Director with NSW Soccer Federation.

Fully experienced.

**David Ratcliffe** - aged 39, currently outright League leader as coach with UTS Olympic.

Former international World Cup, uncompromising centre-back. 51 caps for Australia. Over six years coaching experience in the National League. Won a Coach Of The Year Award in the NSL. Experienced. Ratcliffe finds himself in a very difficult, conflicting situation as he has been offered a full-time, three year contract with his current club UTS Olympic.

**Kenny Murphy** - aged 40, former tenacious, international midfielder, 42 caps for Australia. Extensive coaching experience in the National League.

Experienced.

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### YOUTH LEAGUE

SOUTHERN DIVISION  
ROUND 14

FRIDAY JANUARY 19

Altona Magic 1 (Jovan Kocanov)

Springvale City 1 (John Papettas)

SUNDAY JANUARY 21

VIS 1 (Bill Petrovski)

Green Gully 2 (Adam Cimino, Vlad Babic)

Melbourne Knights 4

(Peri Karlusic 2, Nick Raguz, Tom Gavran)

Morwell Falcons 1

(Zoran Todorovski)

NORTHERN DIVISION

LES SCHEINFLUG CUP

ROUND 19

Thursday, 18th January

Parramatta Eagles 0

Marconi Fairfield 1

ROUND 18

Sunday, 21st January

Marconi Fairfield 1

Wollongong City 2

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# Sea change in school soccer most welcome

Dear Sir,

Little notice has been taken of the fact that more than half of the latest Australian schools representative squad is made up of boys who attend non-Government schools emphasising the sea-change that has occurred in school soccer.

In the sixties soccer was almost exclusively restricted to the State school system, the possibility then that soccer would ever be played in Catholic and Independent schools was out of the question.

As I understand it (but not for certain) Knox Grammar and Barker College from Sydney in the early seventies became the first prominent independent schools to play soccer despite strong internal resistance and Patrician Bros Fairfield (Sydney) became the first prominent Catholic school to play soccer. From this very tentative beginning it took about 20 years for soccer to gain widespread if not grudging acceptance at most independent and Catholic schools across Australia.

When you consider that most of these schools have a longstanding even emotional connection to either Aussie Rules, Rugby League or Union which has not diminished, you begin to realise how outstanding has soccer's progress been in many non government schools in such a short time span.

On the field in 1995 Brisbane Grammar and Ipswich Grammar two of Queensland leading independent schools become the second and fourth best (respectively) soccer schools in the state ahead of countless State and Catholic schools.

In NSW the numerically weaker Catholic school are beginning to dominate the elite Commonwealth Bank Cup only a few years after they began their involvement. Previously this was a State school preserve.

Also in 1995 for the first time ever a boy from a Sydney GPS school (Scots College) was selected to represent NSW in the Australian state championships last September. More surprising was his comment that if he was good enough he would seriously consider a career as a professional soccer player.

A quite amazing comment from a boy attending a school where not so many years ago soccer was a banned game which only confirms the transformation that has occurred.

For me the most pleasing aspect has been the progress of soccer in certain Catholic schools. Without doubt Catholic schools are the best school nurseries for tomorrow's sports stars.

Where would Aussie Rules and Rugby League be without them? Answer: much the poorer.

Ironically it is those much maligned ethnics Italians, Croatians, Latin Americans and others who are mostly responsible for getting soccer introduced into Catholic schools and making it into a viable competitive force.

The Independent schools are not likely to be a great source of new talent but the value of having a significant presence in prestigious, independent schools comes after these boys leave school and go out into the real world.

If they retain some involvement or attachment to soccer some could become "agents of influence" in the cause of Australian soccer in important circles by virtue of their connections and associates.

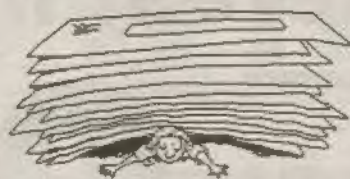
For example if John Howard become PM it certainly won't disadvantage Oz soccer that his sons who attend (or attended) one of Sydney's most conservative independent schools play soccer for the school.

Soccer was only accepted at this school very recently, and reluctantly. Need I say more.

R. Meior,  
Bondi, NSW.

## Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

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## Glamour clubs being punished

Dear Sir,  
So David Hill has brought out the big stick and punished four players and a coach from the Marconi and Sydney United clubs for bringing the game into disrepute!

It's obvious Hill wants to make an example of glamour teams like Marconi and Sydney United to show the rest of the league who's boss! Take a look at other instances this year where behaviour of bringing the game into disrepute has occurred but no action taken!

1/ The fiasco and bungling explanation given by Hill and George Negus regarding the rejection of Johnny Warren for a position within the ASF! Great public relations fellas.

2/ Mike Lyons allegation that Norman Kelly was spat on by a unnamed Sydney United player! Why hasn't Hill followed up on this! If the allegation is true the player should be punished, if not true Lyons should face a disrepute charge for making false allegations and casting aspersions over the entire Sydney United team!

3/ John Kosmina following Newcastle's 5-0 loss to Brisbane where he bagged the referee, Bruce Stowell and claimed Clint Bolton had no heart!

4/ Last Sunday week's game



Mick Lyons: Alleged one of players assaulted.

Melbourne Knights and Newcastle where there was an incident very similar to the Marconi v Sydney United one, players pushing and shoving, players racing in 20-30 metres to get involved but silence from Hill!

Funny thing about that, brawls usually involve a heap of punches but I must have blinked because I didn't see any thrown! The incident in the Marconi, Sydney United game was a storm in a tea cup!

David Hill should be careful he doesn't alienate the glamour sides in the competition like he constantly does over club emblems names etc. because clubs like Marconi, Sydney United, Adelaide City, UTS Olympic, South Melbourne one day might pack up and set up a Super League or join an Asian League and where would the National League be without these clubs!

Marco Checchia  
Merrylands, NSW.

## Croatian Corner defends its opinions

Dear Sir,

First of all I would like to commend Kimon Taliadoros of UTS Olympic for being one of the best, and well spoken commentators on SBS television his comments are well thought out and he puts them across in a smart way.

In Kimon Taliadoros there is a future ASF Chairman and this is only a fair as he has shown on and off the field that he really wants what's best for Australian soccer.

Secondly, I'd like to thank Jimmy Patikas for choosing to come back to his old club Sydney United the local fans love him and still rate him as one of the best players in Australia with his experience and skill up front. Sydney United can finally get closer to winning its first title (championship).

These two players set a fine example to the Australian community especially the Greek one.

Last but not least I would like to reply to the letter sent in by Spiros Metallinos (January 16) who has labelled me a racist. In point form I hope to set the record straight with this person:

■ If Croatia don't beat Greece by at least two goals, I would be very shocked. The Croatian national team have some really good players, who play for elite clubs of Europe. While Greece don't really have any international superstars.

Apart from a few who play in the Greek National League. Sure Croatia could lose to Greece but it would be a big surprise if they did.

■ Panathiniakos did not beat Hajduk Split the games were drawn 0-0 and 1-1. So the Greeks went ahead on the away goals rule. All important to note is that the Greek teams are all at full strength.

As they don't sell players overseas. It would be a different game if Hajduk kept the likes of Boksic, Jarni, Bilic and Jerkan.

■ Italy never played understrength against Croatia but what would do you regard as Italy at full strength? Surely you can't have D. Baggio, R. Baggio, Casiragh, Signori, Viali, Ravanelli, del Piero, Zola all in the one team.

The Italian coach Sacchi picked the best 11 players at the time and no matter who plays (Baggio did play).

Italy will be hard to beat. Croatia have to be credited with its win over Italy as Italy were finalists in the World Cup.

■ Nobody has ever mentioned Croatia as being like world winners, Brazil Germany, Argentina, Holland etc.

■ The subject of Sydney United and Melbourne Knights drafting only Croatian background players is harsh if you look around Mr Metallinos. It is mostly the Croatian background players who are good enough to be drafted.

Apart from Peter Tsekenis and a few others not many Greek players are that good while for the Croats there are lots of talented players.

■ You have labelled me racist and biased when I have tried to be realistic. Who on earth could compare Greece with Croatia when it comes to soccer.

Surely Croatia have produced some of the greats of world soccer and continue to do so while Greece has never in its history produced a player who has played for AC Milan, Real Madrid, Barcelona etc... have they Mr Metallinos?

I'm not being racist I'm just stating the obvious surely you don't rate Greece as better than Croatia.

John Viskovich, "Croatian Corner"  
Five Dock, NSW.



## Excellent coaches good for future

Dear Sir,

Belmore Hercules is a (NSW) Federation Division 1 side, with juniors, and the way the committee has organised the coaches for the junior sides they have to be congratulated.

The club has obtained Level 3 and Level 2 coaches plus Level 1 that have to have Level 2 by the end of the season through a coaching clinic run by Belmore Hercules plus they have obtained a goalkeeping coach.

The club believes that they have excellent coaches that will teach young players soccer skills, and then have a good flow of juniors

coming through in the future to the federation sides or Super League.

The team members from the federation are involved through the club, sharing their knowledge with the junior members, creating the clubmanship that is needed to make a club strong through the ranks from juniors to seniors.

You do not have to be an NSL side or have Youths to supply excellent coaches for your juniors, congratulations Belmore Hercules for your standard of junior coaching.

G. Petsalis,  
Belmore, NSW.

## Scrap finals - fifteen-year-old

Dear Sir,

I'm a 15-year-old kid with a lot of knowledge of World Football and I follow most leagues in the world.

Few if any leagues in the world have finals like Australian soccer has. I think the winner of the Ericsson Cup should be the team who ends up with most points.

By doing that it gives Australia a real taste of World Football and the teams would try much harder to end up with most points and with the Ericsson Cup.

I also think that like all the other leagues there should be relegation to give more teams more chance to make it in the National League.

Roberto Bottaro,  
Mill Park, Vic.



Kimon Taliadoros: Well spoken commentator and a candidate for SA Chairman.



# Six team Australian national league

Dear Sir,  
Preposterous, poppycock: inflammatory language used by Fred Leggett in his letter of January 2, 1996 in ABSW in reply to my article about retaining 12 teams.

Let us ignore the inflammatory language and look at his arguments.

He lists the top eight countries rated by FIFA, which have an average number of teams in their main league of just Under 20.

Is this a valid argument? What about the population of these countries? Their average population is over 60 million. This gives a ratio of over three million per team.

For Australia it is about 18 million, and a ratio of three million per team means a six team league!

Each one of the top eight countries rated by FIFA also has a full-time professional league. At present, Australia exports its best players. The aim should be to increase full-time professional opportunities to reduce this export.

This 1995 FIFA list also shows that Switzerland has dropped from 7 to 18, whereas England has risen from 21 to 18.

This coincides with the increase in Swiss teams from eight to 12, and the decrease in English teams from 22 to 20.

The first criteria to enter the Ericsson Cup for 1996/97 published in the Australian (December 17, 1995) states, "An ability to demonstrate that the club has the capacity to represent a region, city or significant part of a city..."

This requirement means that there should be only one team in the outer western suburbs of Sydney.

These criteria do not require a team to own a ground. Remember that Gladesville owned a ground, but sold it for a housing development. Similarly, these criteria do not require fostering junior soccer in the area.

The Italian Serie A league has a number of cities with two teams such as Turin, Milan, and Rome, but none with three teams.

Both Milan teams play on the same ground just like Adelaide. This is an example for Australia to copy with two teams in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

The comment "you are just as likely to hear a Scottish, English or Australian accent as you are an Italian one..." suggests that Marconi has crossed the dividing line from an ethnic club to an Australian club with an ethnic heritage.

Therefore, Marconi may more than adequately represent the entire outer western suburbs of Sydney.

Dr Peter Bayliss,  
Central Coast, NSW.

## Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

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# Diverse views enhance 'bible'

Dear Sir,

In response to the recent vitriol over John Viskovich's 'Croatian Corner', I am writing to express my support for ABSW's 'free speech' policy.

As I believe the great Sir Winston Churchill once said: "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Therefore, John Viskovich, Henry Wizgier, Dr Bayliss and any other supporters of the World Game have the right to express their opinions in the Australian football 'bible'.

If South Melbourne supporters such as Spiros Metallinos feel that the Croatian Corner is biased, then surely the ABSW would entertain the formation of a regular 'Greek Corner'.

ABSW already has in-depth coverage of Australian, British, Italian, South American and Croatian football, so the addition of a Greek section would undoubtedly be a success.

Disparaging remarks

concerning the chanting of United and Knights' supporters only serve to divide the soccer community.

Croatian supporters have every right to feel proud of their country's success on the international stage.

A newly independent nation of only four million citizens, the Croatian national football team has already defeated the 1994 World Cup runners-up in Italy, with an understrength team!

Greece by the same token achieved qualification for the same World Cup, something which an Australian supporter such as myself could only dream about before FIFA expanded the finals competition.

## MULTICULTURAL BENEFITS

In summation, Australia is indeed fortunate to be able to utilise the skills of players of many backgrounds, one of the great benefits of a multicultural society.

Qualification for the

1998 World Cup should see Australian soccer (as it is known here) continue to raise its profile against the parochial 'football' codes played in Australia and a handful of countries, if any.

## GOAL SIZE COMMENTS

Finally on the subject of expanding the goal size, I believe that Johnny Warren, Australia's former captain, is right in saying that such a change is unnecessary and indeed damaging to the game, by devaluing the scoring of goals.

The beauty of the World Game is that goals are hard to come by, unlike AFL or basketball where the scoreboard is always 'ticking over'.

Making goals a rarity only makes it better when your team bangs a few in. Players with the correct technique will always be able to score, regardless of the size of the opposing goalkeeper.

Anthony Fensom,  
Highgate Hill, Qld.

# AUSTRALIANS LOVE SPORTING SUCCESS

Dear Sir,

Before I begin to discuss what we Australians love most I would firstly like to thank Mr Wiggier for providing the readers of the Australian Soccer Weekly, when are we going to drop the "& British Weekly"? with such a classic example of everything that is un-Australian about the "soccer is real football" approach.

You don't have to be Einstein to work out that only soccer can be the 'real' football.

But Australians and the Yanks have decided it doesn't matter and have adopted codes which have become their football. So what? Mr Wiggier would you rather see Australian soccer achieve the support it deserves or take a massive step backwards and campaign to educate Aussies on the definition of the world

"football".

I don't know if you were born in this country Mr Wiggier but it seems you have not noticed a few fundamental things about Australian culture.

Firstly Australia is probably one of the most classless societies in the world. Apart from the aboriginal community very few Australians could claim their ethnicity is a serious liability in pursuing their ambitions in life.

Secondly Australia is a peaceful country. A country where the closest we get to regional rivalries and passionate nationalism is within the harmless world of sport.

Australia does not need to explode bombs to satisfy our national pride. We only need to win a cricket game, or maybe a game of rugby or even a bloody yacht race and a couple of million Aussies

will have a better day.

Bringing foreign terms such as 'first world' and 'third world' into a discussion about sport is almost obscene. Who are you Mr Wiggier to accuse me of having the "typically limited and smug view of the Australian sports fan".

Australian sports fans have accepted the concept of there being different codes of 'football'. Obviously you haven't.

There are thousands of Australian kids who dream of becoming the Mal Meningas and Gary Ablett of the future. I'm sure for these kids, what is or isn't the definition of 'real football' is of little consequence.

I'm very sure their parents would not appreciate someone claiming their children's dreams are of "third world" importance.

What do Australians love? They love having an AFL

competition. They love having the best rugby league side in the world. They love having one of the best rugby union sides in the world.

Best cricket side in the world. Best netball side in the world. Top five basketball side in the world, male and female teams.

Top two hockey sides in the world, men and women. Aussies love winning America Cups after 132 years.

The odd Wimbledon Champ. The odd athletics gold medal. A powerful swimming team. Stopping the nation to watch a horse race.

What, hopefully, are Australians going learn to love in the coming years? Watching our National League champions winning the Asian champions cup.

Watching the Australian side hammer the Poms if they show us little enough

respect to send less than their full strength side, just as we did to the Argentinians in 1988.

The sooner Australian soccer fans stop whinging about what is or isn't 'real football' the sooner our plans to break into the top 20 will gain the support of mainstream Australian sports fans.

Things are changing. Some rugby league clubs are already working with Australian soccer. The Penrith Panthers soccer club for example.

Once more I will state the fact that Australia is the greatest sporting nation in the world.

In the coming years this fact will become common knowledge around the world as our Soccerroo's continue their successes on the world stage.

M. Ljubic,  
Maroochydore, Qld.

# STAR PROFILE Steve Mautone

CANBERRA COSMOS



**Date of Birth:** August 10, 1970  
**Birthplace:** Myrtleford, Victoria  
**Previous Clubs:** South Melbourne, Morwell Falcons, Parramatta Eagles, Blacktown City  
**Position:** Goalkeeper  
**Nickname:** "Morters"  
**Marital Status:** Single and looking  
**Occupation:** Full-time Soccer player  
**Best Aspect Of Your Game:** Reflexes and taking high balls  
**Most Difficult Opponent:** Francis Awaritefe.  
**Most Impressive Local Player:** South Melbourne's Billy Damianos  
**Favourite Overseas Player:** Man. United's keeper, Peter Schmeichel  
**Favourite Overseas Club:** Juventus  
**Euro '96 Tip:** Italy or Holland  
**What Qualities Make a Good Coach:** A man that is able to understand individually each player. To be able to blast some or be calm towards others. To handle different personalities within squad  
**Most unwanted Dinner Guest:** Jacques Chirac (President of France)  
**Honours:** Joeys' 86, Olympic squad' 91, Soccerroo to Japan 1994  
**Ambitions For 1996:** To have a successful season with Canberra and to gain a full-time pro contract overseas  
**Ambitions After Retiring:** To put back into the game knowledge I gained as a player  
**Most Memorable Moment:** Debut in the National League against Sydney Olympic in 1989 and my debut for the Soccerroos  
**Hobbies Outside Soccer:** Golf and socialising  
**Best Goal You've Seen Scored:** Too many to list  
**Favourite Food:** My Mum's pasta  
**Favourite Drink:** Lemon squash  
**Car You Drive:** I have no car at the moment  
**Favourite TV Show:** Seinfeld  
**TV Show You Refuse To Watch:** All the midday Soapies  
**Favourite Movie:** Highlander and Pulp Fiction  
**Favourite Actor/Actress:** John Travolta and Ellen Barkin  
**Preferred Music:** Acid Jazz  
**Least Preferred Music:** Country  
**Favourite Comedian:** Jim Carrey (Ace Ventura)  
**Pet Hates:** All bad drivers  
**Special Advice To Young Players:** Believe in yourself and listen to all your coaches  
**Person You Would Most Like To Meet:** My future wife

By John Economos



# Brandon Park getting on-field attention

BY PHIL MURPHY

The Wolves are working hard to make next month's international between the Socceroos and Japan a success.

A priority was getting the Brandon Park playing surface into "international" condition.

With the aid of the Wollongong Sportsground Trust, that has been achieved and there should be no complaints.

Brandon Park was used right through the winter months and was in poor condition when the Wolves started their new season.

A Wollongong-based organising committee has been formed containing representatives from Wolves, the ISA and the local media.

It had been hoped Illawarra Lions would play an ISA representative side in the curtain-raiser but Soccer Australia had a different plan.

They have arranged a women's match between NSW and ACT and that should prove popular.

Meantime, the Illawarra Mercury will stage a Socceroo-for-a-Day promotion.

A lucky junior player will



win the chance of being with coach Eddie Thomson and his players on the day of the big game.

Wolves striker Colin Luff was a happy young man after his team's 3-2 away Cup win against UTS Olympic.

Luff was called off the bench early in the second half and grabbed the winning goal.

A product of Picton, Luff scored his first Ericsson Cup goal in the 2-0 victory against South Melbourne earlier this season.

Last year, he was the leading goalscorer in the National Youth League with 24.

He then played a number of games with Lysaghts in the Wollongong Premier League under coach Casey de Bruin.

Although he was recalled by the Wolves and missed the last eight games of the season, he was top



Colin Luff: Grabbed winning goal against Olympic.

goalscorer with 14.

The current campaign is a learning experience for Luff but he is tipped to make an impact next season.

Close call! Former Marconi youth international Ian Pollari was

all set to make his debut with the Wolves in the Johnnie Walker Cup tie against UTS Olympic at Leichhardt Oval.

Two minutes before the team ran out, league general manager Peter Russell advised Wollongong officials

there could be a problem with the young defender's transfer.

Coach Nick Theodorakopoulos wasn't about to take any risks so called Martin Bourke off the bench.

The hitch was cleared up in time for Saturday night's return game in Wollongong and Pollari should be a handy acquisition to his new club.

Paul Beltrame has signed with the Wolves.

The midfielder left Marconi for a reported \$7000 after playing for Wollongong side Port Kembla last season.

He moved from Canberra to join Port Kembla and they won the Wollongong Premier League title.

Beltrame finished a close second to Phil Matias (Lysaghts) for the player of the year and Marconi coach Manfred Schaefer was keen to lure him to Marconi Stadium.

However, when the Marconi squad started to get bigger, Beltrame found himself in the youth team.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos watched Beltrame a couple of times at Marconi and believes he has the mobility to be a big asset.

# Rugby League set to play at Stadium

BY DANE SKAFTE

The future of the Newcastle Breakers Soccer Club looks very promising, after an agreement was signed with the Newcastle Super (Rugby) League group the Hunter Mariners.



The Mariners will play all their home matches this season at Breakers Stadium.

Super League chief executive John Ribot visited the Breakers Stadium a fortnight ago and gave its his approval. The Breakers officials discussed the proposal last Tuesday night and accepted the offer made by Hunter Mariners.

Breakers promotions officer Shane Johnson said: "The decision made by the Breakers will only benefit soccer in Newcastle."

"This is a privately owned consortium so there was only 15 people to discuss the proposal with," Johnson said.

"This was done as a business decision and it will help our financial situation and will improve our amenities at the stadium."

"The Super League club have signed a one year agreement with a further one year option," he said.

"We don't have a major sponsor at this stage or a ground naming rights sponsor. We still have eight corporate boxes to be sold," Johnson said.

"The Mariners will upgrade our amenities and will give us a better cash flow, so we can look at injecting quality players in the side for next season."

The Mariners will work around the Breakers draw and training.

Last year the Breakers let Rugby League play two games at the stadium and everything went fine.

"We have been through the exercise of removing the goalposts and the damage was minimal," Johnson said.

"The field will have to be increased by five metres at either end to make it bigger for the in goals."

"Breakers management and the Super League group will work closely together to make sure things go to plan over the next 12 months," Johnson said.

Super League offer includes upgrading the present toilet and dressing room facilities as well as a cash component.

Breakers defender Ralph Maier did not travel to Brisbane last Saturday night to play in the Johnny Walker Cup. Maier was diagnosed as having a bout of measles early last week and will be out for the next week.



Craig Carter: Enjoying mid-season rest.

Breakers keeper Craig Carter has been having a well deserved rest in the mid-season recess of the Ericsson Cup. Carter suffered a groin injury earlier on during the season while taking goalkicks.

"I was going around the ball instead of through the ball, so Kossie pulled me aside and we worked on the problem," Carter said.

"I have been happy with my game so far this season and I have lost 5 kg since the beginning of the season."

"I have enjoyed the break and look forward to the start of the second round when we play Morwell Falcons at home in February," Carter said.

# Obstacles in Popovic's way

BY DON WOOLFORD  
OF AAP



Tony Popovic: Will find gap in soccer between England and Australia very large.

Australian Tony Popovic, has started his trial period at Leeds United.

Popovic's move was exclusively revealed in ABSW of January 9, 1996.

It was Leeds chief scout Geoff Sleight who brought the Sydney United defender to the Premier League club.

Sleight said last week he was acting on the advice of old team-mate Archie Blue in Sydney.

Popovic, 22, is the first Australian to go to Leeds as a result of the link.

Sleight and Blue were team-mates in the first Australian World Cup team, which was badly beaten in a double-header by North Korea in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 1965.

Blue, a Scot, and Sleight, from Yorkshire, went to Sydney in the early 1960s, joining Apia and the then Prague clubs respectively.

They wound up together in Phnom Penh, a neutral venue in the days when Cold War politics made it impossible for Australia and North Korea to play in each other's countries.

North Korea won 6-1 and 3-1. "We didn't play very well," Sleight recalled. "The standard is higher now."



Sleight came home in 1966, but keeps in touch with Blue, who stayed in Sydney and has set up a company with Brian Turner, an Australian who played for Tottenham Hotspur.

"I was out in Australia two years ago and saw a lot of old friends and got filled in on the soccer scene," Sleight said.

Then late last year Blue recommended Popovic.

"He told me the kid's a good player," Sleight said.

Popovic, who arrived in England on January 12, faces two quite different obstacles in his quest to play with Leeds, which is ninth in the Premier League and retains an outside chance of qualifying for European competition.

The first is, as a foreigner, he lacks a work permit and is therefore not allowed to play in a match in front of a fee-paying public.

He is in a different position to Tony Dorigo, Leeds' most famous Australian, when he

went to Elland Road more than ten years ago. Dorigo, having Italian as well as Australian nationality, was not a foreigner. The regulation means Leeds cannot use Popovic even in its normal reserve team matches.

"We'll see how he goes in training matches over the next few weeks," Sleight said.

If they like what they see in training, Leeds could circumvent the work permit rules by using him in a reserves match for which no entrance fee was charged.

"That's an option for down the track," Sleight said.

Only after being signed could Popovic apply for a work permit.

The second obstacle, Sleight said, is the gap between English and Australian soccer.

"The best in Australia are not the best in this country," Sleight said.

"I think the gap is getting smaller, but it's still a big jump."

"The game here is tougher physically. Even the tackling in training is tougher. It's the difference between the professional and the part-timer. They have to come to terms with this."

"But Popovic is a big lad, six feet four, and he wants to play. I hope he does well. That would be good for the old network."



# OCEANIA

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

International Federation of  
Football History & Statistics

### HOW THEY RATED

NAME	COUNTRY	NOTES
Christian Karembeu	(New Caledonia)	71
Mark Bosnich	(Australia)	63
Paul Okon	(Australia)	57
Mark Viduka	(Australia)	23
Robbie Slater	(Australia)	20
Milan Ivanovic	(Australia)	18
Wynton Rufer	(New Zealand)	15
Darren McClennan	(New Zealand)	14
Aurelio Vidmar	(Australia)	11
Chris Jackson	(New Zealand)	10
Batram Suri	(Solomon Islands)	9
Rodger Gray	(New Zealand)	8
Michael McGarry	(New Zealand)	4
Patrick Appridu	(Tahiti)	3
Danny Tiatto	(Australia)	2
Craig Moore	(Australia)	1
Chris Zoricich	(New Zealand)	1



MARK BOSNICH



PAUL OKON

# Oceania award goes to New Caledonia player

BY TED SIMMONS

New Caledonia defender Christian Karembeu has broken the hold of Australia and New Zealand by winning the 1995 Oceania Footballer of the Year award.

The 25-year-old Karembeu is currently with Sampdoria in the Italian Serie A and signed a three year contract to replace Ruud Gullit.

In a vote among Oceania's football writers, coaches and administration, Karembeu gained 71 votes to beat Australians Mark Bosnich (63), Paul Okon (57), Mark Viduka (23) and Robbie Slater (20).

It is the first time the award has been won by a nominee from outside Australia or New Zealand.

Karembeu first came to the attention of the football public three years ago when he was signed by FC Nantes in the French First Division.

He was an aggressive player who had loads of



Christian Karembeu with president of Sampdoria Enrico Mantovani, in 1995.

talent but a short temper which frequently got him into trouble.

He soon came to the attention of the French

selectors and won a place in the national team for two matches in 1993.

New Caledonia is considered a department of

France. It elects a Deputy (MP) to the French Parliament.

Karembeu displayed an aptitude for scoring as

easily as he defended and his ability made him a regular in the national side. He scored the first goal in the 3-1 French victory over Romania last year which qualified France for the 1996 European finals.

In 1993, he polled 11 votes in the Oceania award, improved last year to 31 votes and fifth place behind Aurelio Vidmar and finally reached top place with the latest poll.

Karembeu was given the major vote by 10 of the pollsters, with Bosnich gaining five first places and Okon three.

Voting papers were sent to Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Cook Islands, Western Samoa and New Caledonia.

Previous winners are Frank Farina, Robbie Slater (twice) and Aurelio Vidmar (Australia) with Wynton Rufer (New Zealand a three times winner).

Expansion of the award outside the Australia-New Zealand bloc is an



Christian Karembeu: First came to the attention of the football public three years ago when he was signed by Nantes.

interesting indication of the growth of football in the Oceania region.

In past years, Australian and New Zealand clubs have signed players from Fiji, Papua New Guinea. Soccer Australia has co-operated in sending coaches and referees on lecture tours around Oceania in an effort to improve the sport.

The performance of

different players at the Oceania zone Olympic Games qualifiers in Adelaide has already resulted in a Fijian player being signed by Morwell Falcons in the National League and an interest shown in others.

Previously, Australia has fielded a second-string team in its matches at all age levels in Oceania competition. There has been the occasional upset but Australia has invariably been the dominant nation.

A growth in skill and ability in Oceania will provide better opposition for Australia, strengthen the area and give the Oceania Confederation the standing it lacks at present.

The Oceania Footballer of the Year award started in 1988 and is now recognised by FIFA.

In the past three years, Sydney Daily Telegraph soccer writer John Taylor has been the only voter to twice select the top five, although not necessarily in the correct order.



# Johnnie Walker Cup

ROUND 1 - 2ND LEG

## Knights win proves fruitless

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 SOUTH MELB. 0**  
(SOUTH MELBOURNE WIN 4-3 ON AGG.)

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

The nine men of Melbourne Knights defeated South Melbourne 1-0 at Somers Street on Friday night, but still went out of the Johnnie Walker Cup.

The Knights had both Dragi Natsevski and John Markovski sent off for second bookable offences in a 10 minute period in the second half.

Along with the two send offs, referee John Fraser booked eight other players in a scrappy, untidy game.

Natsevski was dismissed in the 74th minute when he brought down Vaughan Coveny just outside the box.

Markovski went when he for the second time, cannoned into marker Jean-Paul Knezevic who had successfully tracked the star striker for both matches.

Impressive youngster Tom Pondeljak once again got on the scoresheet in the 47th minute when he collected Mark Silic's poorly cleared corner and blasted past Mike Petkovic.

Pondeljak was outstanding

**SCORER:** Knights: T. Pondeljak (47)

**YELLOW CARDS:** Knights: Lapsansky (34), Silic (35), J. Markovski (53), Natsevski (58), DeAmicis (87), Z. Markovski (87) South: Blatsis (5), Panopoulos (22), Baser (23), JP Knezevic (64)

**RED CARDS:** Knights: Natsevski (74), J Markovski (84)

**CROWD:** App. 2,000

**REFEREE:** J. Fraser

for the Knights as was Fausto De Amicis playing in

the sweeper position in a team missing no less than eight regular players.

With the tie in the balance, the Knights went for broke and came close again soon afterwards when Petkovic was forced to palm John Markovski's powerful header over the bar.

Paul Trimboli then had a header cleared off the line by Zoran Markovski with the Knights defence exposed every time they went forward searching for the winning goal.

The double send off didn't help the cause, and it looked more likely that the Blues would score again with both substitute Craig Lewis and pocket dynamo Steve Panopoulos hitting Vilson

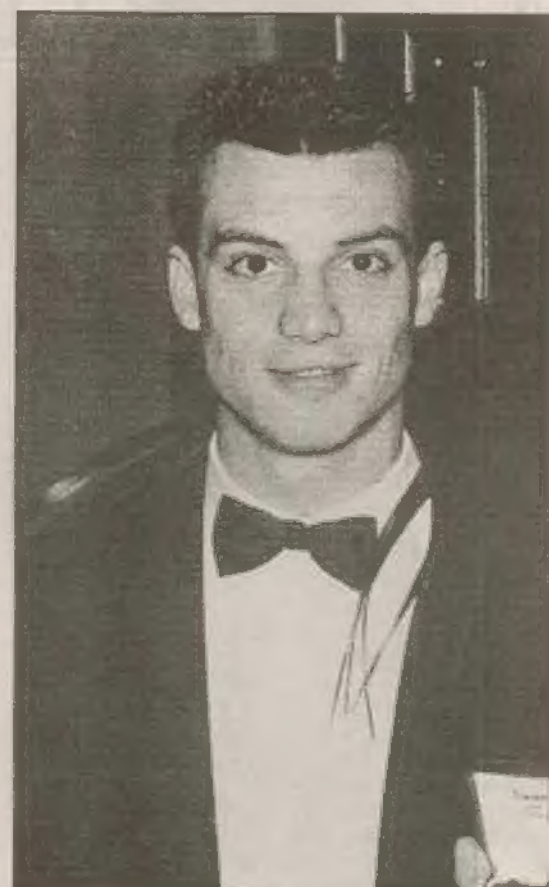
Knezevic's bar.

New coach Ian Dobson was forced into two changes from last Sunday's game with Joe Bacak called up for Olyroo duty and Andrew Marth missing with injury.

Josip Simunic, recently acquired from the AIS came into the starting line-up along with Branko Bacak.

**KNIGHTS:** V. Knezevic, DeAmicis, Z. Markovski, Silic, Simunic, Lapsansky, Vojtek, J. Markovski, Natsevski, B. Bacak (Movric 60), T. Pondeljak.

**SOUTH:** M. Petkovic, Blatsis, Anthonopoulos, Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Damianos, Petersen, J.P. Knezevic, Baser (Valkanis 79), Curcija (Lewis 62).



Fausto De Amicis: Had outstanding game in nine-man Knights.

## Olympic turnaround over Wolves

**WOLLONGONG CITY 0 UTS OLYMPIC 3**  
(3-5 AGG.)

BY PHIL MURPHY

Teenager Ralph Bove was a major contributor as UTS Olympic recovered from a first-leg defeat to bundle Wollongong City out of the Johnnie Walker Cup at Brandon Park on Saturday night.

Although well below full strength, Olympic were full value for their 3-0 victory after losing the first leg 3-2.

One of the big differences was that Wolves captain Matt Horsley wasn't allowed to dominate the game down the left.

In the first leg, Horsley was outstanding but Olympic coach David Ratcliffe decided to use young Bove to defuse the danger.

The 18-year-old hassled Horsley from the opening whistle and the home team didn't have any other real options going forward.

In fact they rarely ventured into the Olympic penalty area. Playing with a strong wind at their backs in the first half, Olympic took a whole to settle down but Nick Meredith cause plenty of problems with his curling crosses and corner kicks.

It was from a Meredith corner on the right that Olympic went ahead after 31 minutes, Chris Slater heading home on the far post.

The goal was the result of slack

**SCORERS:** Slater (31), Ardone (38), Ironside (82)  
**CROWD:** 2,604  
**REFEREE:** B. Hugo

defence from Wollongong and that also applied when Olympic went further ahead in the 38th minute.

Walter Ardone ran 40m across the field and after a one-two with Kris Trajanovski which didn't quite come off beat Wolves goalkeeper Brett Hughes with an angled drive.

Wollongong's only clear-cut chance of the first half fell to Robbie Middleby after striker Tony Perinich created a very good opportunity.



Robbie Ironside: Put away the third goal for Olympic after coming on as sub.

Middleby was less than five metres out but his shot went straight into the arms of goalkeeper George Bouhoutsos.

Replacement Paul Betrame tested Bouhoutsos with a 25m effort early in the second half but the Olympic goalkeeper had an easy evening.

Robert Ironside, who had replaced the injured Alistair Edwards after just 15 minutes sealed his team's quarter-final spot with a goal from close range eight minutes from the end.

The industrious Trajanovski created the goal with a typical break down the left.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said he had been disappointed with his team's first half performance but thought they improved after the interval.

He said the emphasis would be getting things "together" for the resumption of the Ericsson Cup — away to Marconi — on February 3.

Wollongong are scheduled to play a trial against St George tomorrow night and then another against a State Super League side at the weekend. Olympic coach David Ratcliffe praised the performance of his depleted side.

He said his team finished the game with just five what he could call first team regulars.

**WOLLONGONG:** Hughes, Bourke, O'Shea, Naumovski (Petratos 84), Pollari, Jolevski, Dihm (Luff 58), Middleby, Perinich, Jermen (Beltrame 52), Horsley.

**OLYMPIC:** Bouhoutsos, Barrett, Ciantar, Bove, Slater, Trajanovski, Ardone (Valas 58), Meredith, Blagojevic, Baillie, Edwards (Ironside 15).

## Hapless Falcons devoured by Zebras

**MORWELL FALCONS 0 ADELAIDE CITY 2**  
(ADELAIDE WIN 3-0 ON AGGREGATE)

BY CON STAVROS

Adelaide City cruised straight into the semi-finals of the Johnnie Walker Cup after demolishing the increasingly hapless Morwell Falcons in the first round.

The Zebras took their 1-0 first leg win to Morwell and had little trouble in disposing of the Falcons by double that margin in a relatively dull battle.

Adelaide's bizarre move straight into the final four comes courtesy of an unbalanced draw that sees them receive a bye in round two of an event which is being snubbed by fans.

Only a tiny handful bothered to turn out for this game and it was all over for the local faithful as quickly as the 3rd minute with Adelaide getting off to a flying start.

Bradley Armour ran on to an excellent pass from Craig Foster to shoot past goalkeeper Jim Kouritis and kill off what little confidence the Falcons have left after their recent dismal run.

The early goal allowed Adelaide to do what they do best and the visitors immediately shifted onto a defensive footing that clearly frustrated Morwell and did little for the spectacle.

Alex Tobin and Milan Ivanovic dominated in defence with

**SCORERS:** Adelaide City: Armour (3), Hassell (51)

**YELLOW CARDS:** Morwell: Stergiopoulos (67) Adelaide City: Foster (62), Nedeljkovic (63)

**CROWD:** 500

**REFEREE:** C. Naumcevski

Adelaide also controlling the midfield and ensuring that former player Carlo Talladira had no effect in his first game for the Falcons.

The match went beyond the



Bradley Hassell: Scored second goal to wrap-up the tie.

faintest hope of the most diehard Morwell fan six minutes into the second half with player of the match Brad Hassell scoring with a powerful shot from outside the box following an excellent run.

Hassell missed an easy chance to add another just a minute later after Kouritis had misjudged a clearance, allowing the ball to fall to Hassell who shot wide of the empty net.

Damian Mori missed a similar situation moments later as the Falcons grew visibly dejected at their lack of success in moving the ball allowing the Zebras a plethora of shots.

Warren Spink had a powerful free-kick well saved and saw a looping header finish just over the bar late in the game, but for the most part Morwell looked desperately short of imagination and inspiration, with their goal drought now stretched to four straight games.

Adelaide looked competent enough and more importantly appear to be taking the competition seriously enough to add to their impressive Cup Trophy cabinet.

The Zebras boast the best record in the competition, having won the title a record three times. With this success Adelaide City have now made the final four for the eighth time.

**MORWELL:** Kouritis, Marcina (Canosa 77), Cummings, Miller (Villani 63), Tapai, Waddell, Bothwell, Talladira, Reda, Spink, Geri (Stergiopoulos 58).

**ADELAIDE CITY:** Petkovic, Nedeljkovic (Mennillo 69), Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Hassell, Gibson (Brazzale 69), Perin, Armour (Costanzo 80), Foster.



# Johnnie Walker Cup

ROUND 1 - 2ND LEG

## Marconi down depleted United

**SYDNEY UNITED 0 MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2 (1-3 AGG.)**

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Severely depleted Sydney United went down at home to Marconi 0-2 in the second leg of the 'Johnnie Walker Cup' last Saturday night. Marconi marched on to tonight's (Tuesday) quarter finals against South Melbourne at the Bob Jane Stadium.

A first half goal from Marconi striker Francis Awantefe plus another in the second session from midfielder-turned-sweeper Robbie Stanton, ultimately buckled the very young and gallant United line-up.

Following last week's first leg 1-1 draw at Marconi Stadium, the home side understandably

had to struggle to hold Marconi who had far too much fluency, stability and experience against a 'brand-new' Sydney United side.

United were missing no less than 11 players from their first-team squad. They had ten changes from last week's starting XI, through injury or on national duty with Australia's Olympic squad in Adelaide, plus were again missing their star sweeper and international skipper Tony Popovic who is still on trials with Leeds United.

Awantefe opened the score in the 18th minute after attacking midfielder Eric Hristodoulou pushed forward a through ball for the lanky striker to latch onto and nail the target giving reserve 'keeper Andrew Crews no chance.

But Marconi looked as if they were going to be in a spot of bother themselves when they lost their skipper-

**SCORERS:** Marconi: Awantefe 19, Stanton 59.

**YELLOW CARDS:** Sydney United: Kupresak 53, Zdrilic 54, Vrkic 88th. Marconi: Smith 61, Awantefe 64.

**CROWD:** App: 1,836

**REFEREE:** S. Micallef.

sweeper and driving force Jean-Paul De Marigny as early as in the 23rd minute, forced to leave the field when his strained thigh muscle gave way again. Giant striker Andy Harper came on for his injured captain, with Stanton dropping back from midfield to the sweeper's role.

Five minutes after the break United almost levelled the scoreline when powerful striker Jimmy Patikas skied over the cross-bar an

excellent cross from young midfielder Mirko Jurilj who had rounded Marconi's international stopper Dominic Longo.

Marconi doubled the scoreline in the 57th minute when Harper and Matthew Bingley combined to set up Stanton to push into the net from close-range.

United's new midfield quarter of David Zdrilic, Mirko Jurilj, Robbie Enes, Aytec Genc and Chad Gibson ignited into more action in the second half desperately trying to make a game of it as Marconi soaked up the pressure.

In the 61st minute, United brought on an unknown powerfully-built 17 year old attacking left midfielder named Jacob Burnes.

From the moment he came on, Burnes despite his vast inexperience did everything right as he provided penetration with his raids and distribution

down the left as well as doing his fair share of tackling.

A vital flaw appeared in Marconi's tactics which made one think that there was something wrong with Harper or maybe he became invisible to his team-mates.

On four separate occasions Harper drifted quietly and intelligently very wide to the right, completely free from any defender.

Yet one Marconi defender, plus two midfielders, when they found themselves in possession and in an attacking situation, inexplicably, totally neglected to 'feed' Harper with a simple long and wide ball for the completely unmarked striker to latch onto, electing instead to switch play across to the left side where the passes automatically became 50-50 balls.

Best performers for Marconi were left midfielder Mike Smith and Stanton, whilst for United giant marker Velimir Kupresak and the young substitute Jacob Burnes impressed.

United's defeated boss was surprisingly content with the result, philosophically stating, "The better team on the night won despite the fact that we had 11 missing through injury, overseas or on national duty with the Olympic squad."

Missing tonight were Popovic (on trials with Leeds), Rudan, Lamond, Markovac, Perosh, Milicic, Bilokapic, Moric. In addition Zdrilic, Enes, Sean Babic and Crews, were struck down by a virus and didn't train all week. They had to get out of bed to play for us tonight.

"We just had far too many replacements to be fluent, but I was very happy with everyone's

commitment despite our adverse situation," ended Culina.

Meanwhile, Marconi's man, Manfred Schaefer, reflected Culina's sentiments by stating, "How could they have been a match for us as they had far too many out from their first team line-up. In reality it was a game they had everything to gain and we really had everything to lose."

"The way we started it looked as if we would get plenty of goals as it was hard to focus on the situation, but of course I'm happy with the result," ended Schaefer.

**UNITED:** Crews, Kupresak, Vrkic, Plesa, Zdrilic, Jurilj, Enes (J. Burnes 61), Genc, Gibson, Patikas, S. Babic.

**MARCONI:** Catlin, Souris, Van Egmond, De Marigny (Harper 23), Longo, Maloney, Hristodoulou, (Zoricich 75), Stanton, Smith (Renaud 66), Awantefe, Bingley.

## Cosmos dominate Sharks to advance

**CANBERRA COSMOS 1 WEST ADELAIDE 0 (CANBERRA WIN 2-1 ON AGGREGATE)**

BY GRAHAM COOKE THROUGH AAP

Canberra Cosmos coach Mike Lyons believes he is on the verge of a breakthrough with his veteran striker Tony Lemezina after his team beat West Adelaide 1-0 last Saturday.

The result gives Cosmos a 2-1 aggregate win and a passage straight through to the semi-final, where they meet the winner of the South Melbourne versus Marconi Fairfield second round tie.

Lemezina, who came on in the 28th minute for the injured Stan Dukic, was one of the stars of the game.

He added both flare and penetration to the Canberra frontline in effective partnership with Marko Pernovic.

"I have been onto Tony all season to play the same kind of game he does with Canberra Deakin during the winter," Lyons said afterwards.

"He needs to settle on the ball, be greedy, make things happen."

"It's beginning to happen - the old arrogance is back."

For Lemezina the turning point came about three matches ago.

"I'm just regaining the confidence to take players on," he said.

**SCORER:** Canberra: Pernovic (64)

**YELLOW CARD:** Canberra: Mazis (8)

**CROWD:** 1,592

**REFEREE:** G. Connelly

"Match fitness has a lot to do with it."

"You know, I think I could finish the season with ten or twelve goals if I get a regular run."

Canberra suffered an early blow in the game when Lachlan Armstrong limped off after just 90 seconds with a recurrence of his hamstring injury.

He was replaced by Arsenije Popovich.

Coach Lyons had his options further reduced in the 28th minute as Dukic also succumbed to a hamstring injury.

His replacement, Lemezina, forced Michael Mustano to drop back into midfield.

Even so it was the home side which made all the first half running. Paul Dee pumped a searching cross into the West Adelaide penalty area where Hamilton Thorpe cleared the danger.

In the 31st minute only desperation defence saved the visitors, first Thorpe headed off the line from Jason Dunn, then within seconds Branco Milosovic hacked the ball away after goalkeeper Peter Blazincic dropped a shot from Pernovic.

West Adelaide's best chance of the half was created after the busy Robbie Hooker disposed

Dee in midfield.

Hooker took the ball wide on the left then crossed to Nathan Day who volleyed over the bar.

The home side continued to dominate play in the second half. It was the busy Mustano who found the overlapping Peter Mazis.

The defender passed to Lemezina in front of goal only for the striker to shoot wide. Lemezina made up for that lapse a moment later. He dummied to pass to Pernovic, instead sending the ball to Mustano who had run clear. Mustano's shot beat Blazincic but rattled against the base of the post.

With so much pressure a Cosmos goal was inevitable.

It came in the 64th minute. Mazis chipped the ball to Paul Wade at the far post, the Cosmos captain headed onto Pernovic who had the simplest of tasks heading home as Blazincic stayed rooted to his line.

Cosmos goalkeeper Ben Harris, making his senior team debut, with Steve Mautone in England trialling with West Ham United, had little to do until the final minutes of the game, when he made a fine save from Jimi Tsekis.

**CANBERRA:** Harris, Dee, Dunn (Watson 61), Wade, Armstrong (A. Popovich 1), Pernovic, T. Popovich, Koch, Mustano, Dukic (Lemezina 28), Mazis.

**WEST ADELAIDE:** Blazincic, Kokkinopitis, Slager, Hooker, Tibaldi (Andrioli 70), Iliarte (Lekkas 60), Cardozo, Milosovic, Tsekis, Day, Thorpe.

## Strikers bow to battling Breakers

**BRISBANE STRIKERS 1 NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1 (1-2 AGG.)**

BY GLENN DAYNE

Missed opportunities and a lack of cohesion contributed to an injury riddled Brisbane Strikers' early exit from the Johnnie Walker Cup against Newcastle at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The Strikers bowed out of the knockout competition on aggregate 2-1 after being held to a 1-1 home draw by the Breakers who won the first encounter 1-0 at home last week.

The Strikers, minus several key players including sharpshooter Frank Farina, Socceroo Sean Cranney and Kiwi international Chris Zoricich had the better of the first half and should have had the match wrapped up by the interval.

The Strikers hit the front in the 14th minute when Troy Cranney headed home a cross from youngster Chay Hews which Newcastle 'keeper Adam Fittock failed to gather cleanly.

Newcastle midfielder Steve Hickman denied the Strikers a second goal at the 28 minute mark clearing a Rod Brown header off the line.

Coach Bruce Stowell was forced to a half time change replacing the injured Brown with Andrew Brayshaw and for a fleeting moment the move looked like reaping an early reward.

**SCORERS:** Brisbane: T. Cranney (14). Newcastle: James (62)

**CROWD:** 3,149

**REFEREE:** D. Crawford

Brayshaw struck a 30 metre shot which took a deflection onto the crossbar just 4 minutes after the break which would have gone a long way to sealing a quarter final berth for the home side.

However, Newcastle's cautious and sometimes physical approach



Harry James: Scorer of the vital goal which took the Breakers through.

eventually paid dividends in the 62nd minute when striker Harry James turned the Strikers defence on the left flank finding Glen Moore unmarked in the box. He made no mistake in scoring from close range.

Stowell was naturally disappointed with the draw and the Strikers' elimination from the Johnnie Walker Cup but on reflection welcomed a fortnights break before the Ericsson Cup resumes.

The Strikers have been plagued with injuries over the past month and many players are looking forward to a break in the hectic schedule.

Stowell was pleased with the performance of youngsters Kasey Wehrman, and substitute Reece Tollenaere but overall was disappointed with a lack of desire from some players.

"They almost played as if they were just waiting for the injured players to come back," Stowell said.

"We were beaten by a side with a higher work rate who were prepared to battle and close us down and we simply accepted it."

"Our young players did a good job and Wehrman showed a few good things."

"It was good experience for him while Tollenaere also did a good job for the brief time he was on the park."

**BRISBANE:** Ross, Williams, Hunter, Phillips, Polak, R. Brown (Brayshaw HT), Wright, T. Cranney, Hews, Battistin, Wehrman (Tollenaere 75).

**NEWCASTLE:** Fittock, Hickman, Halpin, Moore, James, Bennett, Thomas, Pryce, Sprod, Stewart, Ritchie.



# ERICSSON CUP

## Mid-season Report Card

PART 2

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

### ADELAIDE CITY

The pedigree of the Zebras is left unquestioned, but with a new coach and changes in personnel, another late run at the Championship may be beyond the perennial finalists.



Since Zoran Matic's glory run closed at the end of last season, John Perin has had a tough act to follow and City with all their wealth of talent have enjoyed a mediocre season to date.

The team has struggled for consistency, coupling pairs of victories with poor runs of indifferent defeats.

While Adelaide are by no means out of the play off picture, they have won only three matches from seven games against clubs below them on the ladder, and at Hindmarsh, where they have proved insurmountable in the past, City have won just three from nine games.

Scoring has not been a problem. City have one of the best attacks in the league with 26 goals, and the extraordinary exploits from Damian Mori, 13 goals from 17 matches will see "Frogger" set a new NSL record if he manages to continue his spree.

Mori's 3.69 seconds of fame has single-handedly added credibility to the league from overseas, and the raised profile has added to the local box office.

The Zebras are still one win from the top six, a position they relinquished with the defeat by local rivals West Adelaide at last start, the only victory from their last seven games a 1-0 win over the vanquished Wolves.



**Goran Lozanovski:** His industry and class have been behind much of City's fine record.

**COACH RATING:** John Perin has been left a quality squad, and the litmus test for his success will come if he can manage to qualify and enjoy a solid run through the semis.

**BEST PLAYER:** In a class squad Damian Mori has stood above all, his opportunism and quality finishing have kept the zebras in the hunt this summer.

**BEST YOUNG PLAYER:** Goran Lozanovski's industry and class on City's left flank have been the drive behind much of Adelaide City's fine attacking record this season.

**REALISTIC CHANCES:** Only the foolish would discount the intestinal fortitude of the Zebras, at their most focused they can again take the title.

**BEST RESULT:** A midweek 7-0 demolition job on in form Brisbane in Round 7 is testimony to the danger of City at their very best.

**BIGGEST SHOCK:** A 2-1 defeat at the hands of mediocre Newcastle in Round 8.

### WEST ADELAIDE

Wests traditionally the poorer cousins of Adelaide City have momentarily taken a jump on their fierce rivals, but in doubt is their stamina to last another half of the campaign.



The Sharks have always covered themselves with credit especially under Raul Blanco's astute guidance, but their failure to go all the way when the pressure is on must be a worrying trait for the players, coaches and fans.

Since the injury to main attacking weapon Cyrille Ndongo Keller has ruled him out for most of the season, goalscoring has proved another headache for Blanco.

Pablo Cardozo and Jim Tsaknis are sharing the responsibility with six goals apiece, but the Sharks will miss a main marksman as the going gets tough and tight.



**Robbie Hooker:** Continues to deliver the goods, adding steel and experience.

Like City, West Adelaide have not been able to establish consistent form, their home record is solid without being flash, five wins from eight matches.

With a posse of four clubs sitting in just behind the Sharks, they are the most vulnerable of the current members of the top six, with next club Melbourne Knights a further one win ahead of Wests.

**COACH RATING:** Raul Blanco's respect has been well earned and deserved. At times without the absolute quality at his disposal his Sharks have failed to make their mark in the finals.

If Blanco can ingrain consistency Wests will become a force this year.

**BEST PLAYER:** Robbie Hooker continues to deliver the goods, adding steel and experience to the backline, which earned the sweeper a justified recall to the Soccerroos.

**BEST YOUNG PLAYER:** Nathan Day's enterprise has added a breath of fresh air and vital goals to the Shark's cause.

**REALISTIC CHANCES:** Wests have the know-how and the players but possibly not the belief to get into the playoffs.

**BEST RESULT:** Outplaying and taking the points and a top six spot from arch rivals Adelaide City in Round 17.

**BIGGEST SHOCK:** Finally coming to terms with their nemesis Adelaide City in Round 17.

### MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

The defending champions haven't set the world on fire, but they remain in contact with the leaders, and will loom as a threat in the finals.



The affect of losing coach Mirko Bazic in mid-season is difficult to gauge, but his extraordinary claims and departure can only disadvantage the Knights.

Since removing the monkey last season, the Knights were always going to find the challenge tough without the gifted Mark Viduka, and as has proved, the Somers St side have lacked a noted finisher.

Andrew Marth and Joe Spiteri have managed just four strikes, Spiteri's talents obviously relying on Viduka's presence.

The Knights have the poorest attacking record of the rest of the top ten clubs, only shellshocked Newcastle and Wollongong have scored fewer goals, an ominous position for a club defending their title.

On the up side the Melbourne club have the tightest defence in the competition, allowing just 12 goals to date, only four at Somers St where they have won six from eight matches.



**Andrew Marth:** His domineering presence and ability for goals will be vital.

**COACH RATING:** Mirko Bazic has kept the side on the rails and in the top six again this season, however, his premature loss may well prove vital with incoming Ian Dobson untried in these waters.

**BEST PLAYER:** Andrew Marth inspired his club to their long awaited title last campaign, if the Knights are to again make the Championship game his domineering presence and ability for goals will be vital.

**BEST YOUNG PLAYER:** Tomislav Pondeljak has added three goals in just seven appearances, his injection during the second half of the campaign could unlock the goalscoring drought.

**REALISTIC CHANCES:** Not half the side they were last season, the Knights will be expected to make the play offs, but without Viduka, unlikely they can defend their Championship successfully.

**BEST RESULT:** A midweek 2-0 home win over Marconi in Round 3.

**BIGGEST SHOCK:** Mirko Bazic leaving mid-season, and a 3-1 home lesson from Canberra.

### MORWELL FALCONS

Equal to Canberra's rise has been the inexplicable demise of the Falcons.



Early up there with pacesetters Marconi and Olympic, Morwell were the new entertainers of the Ericsson Cup.

Harry Bingham picked up the monthly coaching award for October as the Falcons smashed through all comers in the early rounds.

Suddenly the wheels have fallen off. Morwell have managed just a slim 1-0 win over Wollongong as their only victory in their past eight matches.

Sonny Sevin, Michael Reda, Brian Bothwell, Ernie Tapai and Warren Spink were inspired in the early rounds of the season, but as the Falcons lost the bearings they managed to win as many as they lost at Falcons Park.

Last season Morwell qualified with a late surge into the playoffs but if the rot remains the Falcons will indeed soon slip from those calculations.



**Sonny Sevin:** Is once again pulling the strings in midfield.

**COACHING RATING:** Harry Bingham's quality has been proven in the past, but this inspiration will be needed if the Falcons are to take anything from this campaign.

**BEST PLAYER:** Classy Sonny Sevin is once again pulling the strings in the Falcons midfield.

**REALISTIC CHANCES:** Morwell contain English class and a shrewd coach to turn around a mediocre season and make the finals.

**BEST RESULT:** A midweek 4-2 demolition of leaders Olympic in Round 3, only a two goal late rally gave Olympic respectability.

**BIGGEST SHOCK:** The 5-0 drubbing by upwardly mobile Canberra in the capital.



# ERICSSON CUP

## Mid-season Report Card

PART 3

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

### BRISBANE STRIKERS

The Strikers have positioned themselves comfortably into fourth place, the Queensland side look to have their best chance ever of carrying off the league title.



Brisbane must break through the domination of the Sydney based top three, with Adelaide City aside, no club can seriously challenge for the title from outside that top echelon.

Coach Bruce Stowell has persisted with a squad steadily developed over the past few seasons.

Olympic keeper Clint Bolton, the brothers Cranney, Soccerroo Jason Polak ever reliable Alan Hunter, NSL veterans Danny Wright and Gary Phillips, an injury free Rod Brown, NZ International Chris Zonich plus the world class Frank Farina, reads as an impressive collection.

The Queenslanders are so tough at Suncorp, seldom do away sides glean anything from their journey north, only Marconi in Round 1 has beaten the Strikers at home.

Along with Olympic, Brisbane have scored more goals than any other at home in winning six from seven since the opening round.

Farina has added that touch of class that any contender requires, his influence on the squad, his skill, speed and finishing has renewed interest north of the border.



Sean Cranney: Star player who has won Soccerroo selection.

**COACH RATING:** Bruce Stowell secured the biggest coup of recent years in acquiring Farina, his side has done enough for Stowell to concentrate on plotting their route through the finals.

**BEST PLAYER:** The humble return of Frank Farina is an example to the current brat pack roaming the world.

**BEST YOUNG PLAYER:** Sean Cranney has emerged as the best young star for some time from this part of the country, earning Olympic and Soccerroo selection for his troubles.

**REALISTIC CHANCES:** The top three is so important for the Strikers, little doubt they should make the play offs, but their progress will rely on maintaining use of their home ground.

**BEST RESULT:** On Christmas weekend Brisbane handed the normally stoic Sydney United defence a 4-0 caning.

**BIGGEST SHOCK:** Adelaide City's 7-0 obliteration in round seven.

### SYDNEY UNITED

Unfashionable United have again thrown in their hat for the Championship, but their real lack of pedigree may again see them fall short of the main event.

Almost machine-like in their Culina inspired displays, their lack of real thrust has been pepped up with the return of Jimmy Patikas.

The main problem for United is their lack of a noted finisher, Tony Popovic is second top scorer with just four.

The balance of the top four sides host an array of talent in the scoring department, only out of favour Manis Lamond raises the pulse rate of the Edensor Park fans.

Overall a quality side that season in, season out qualifies for the play offs, but without the necessary punch to go all the way.

The best away record in the competition, United have lost only once in nine games on foreign territory, and defensively the second best in the league.



Tony Popovic: Has inspired in any task thrown at him.

**COACH RATING:** Branko Culina has enjoyed more limelight for all the wrong reasons this season, once seen but not heard, if Culina can avoid blaming all and sundry for his problems and concentrates on the job at hand he may, with Patikas' help get to the Grand Final party.

**BEST PLAYER:** Tony Popovic has again inspired in any task thrown in his direction, now maybe lost to Leeds United the Soccerroo rep could miss his best chance of winning in Australia.

**BEST YOUNG PLAYER:** Ante Moric as leading scorer and an Olympic representative will need to hold together a soft attack as United lead into the semis.

**REALISTIC CHANCES:** If Patikas can continue to ignite through the middle, United can get to the Grand Final, but maybe not good enough to win the Championship.

**BEST RESULT:** The final match before the break Sydney United handed an improving South Melbourne a 4-1 lesson.

**BIGGEST SHOCK:** A 2-1 home defeat by previously winless Newcastle in Round 5, and John Perosh's famous gaff in Adelaide.

### MARCONI FAIRFIELD

Back on the trophy trail once again, Marconi have put behind them the troubles of recent seasons and are tracking Olympic all the way to the top.

Manfred Schaeffer has successfully culled egos out Fairfield way and brought credibility back to the pedigree club.

Dominic Longo has added more spice to an otherwise innocuous and brittle defence, while the success of Mike Smith and his ability to score important goals has added a new dimension to the Marconi machine.

Up front Francis Awantefe is enjoying a refreshed lease of life, a perfect foil for the goal hungry bulldozer Andy Harper.

Away from home Marconi are the best in defence and attack, conceding just seven goals in nine games.

Beaten only once in their last ten games prior to the break, including three last up impressive wins on the trot, Marconi are cruising ominously just behind front running Olympic.



Luke Casserly: Young player has emerged to win Olyroo place.

**COACH RATING:** Manfred Schaeffer's no nonsense approach has battered down the hatches and the Fairfielders look as even money as Olympic at this stage of the competition.

**BEST PLAYER:** Despite a late start to this campaign Dominic Longo's presence has added starch and gives Marconi a more well rounded appearance.

**BEST YOUNG PLAYER:** Luke Casserly despite limited appearances has done enough to be included in the Olympic qualifiers.

**REALISTIC CHANCES:** Barring disaster Marconi are favourites at this stage to take the Championship.

**BEST RESULT:** A 4-2 home victory in Round 16 over Adelaide City, and Marconi enjoyed their second win this season over their old Italian foes.

**BIGGEST SHOCK:** A 2-0 loss at inept Wollongong in Round 7.

### UTS OLYMPIC

Of all club's taking stock of their half season performance, Olympic would have been hoping the campaign had continued.

Their breathtaking run at the top has seen them shake off all comers and against all adversity look Championship material.

Time and again they have snared positive results from disaster, the goal scoring feats of rejuvenated Kris Trajanovski have been an absolute joy for the Olympic faithful.

Olympic are the only side unbeaten on their home turf, they have won more matches at home than any club, scored more goals at home and away than any side and are the league's entertainers.

UTS have embraced their new ground of the past few seasons, delivering heart attack football for their success-starved army of fans, struggling in many matches before wearing down the opposition and rescuing games from imminent defeat.

David Ratcliffe's daring approach playing with an attacking foursome has transformed Olympic into a side which goes out and believes they can score more often than their opponents in a somewhat gung ho approach.



Kris Trajanovski: Stands out from the crowd. His goalscoring knack is vital.

**COACH RATING:** David Ratcliffe has more than proven his worth, coming from a successful stint at cash-strapped Wollongong, the former Soccerroo has added character to a side with an inferiority complex.

**BEST PLAYER:** Kris Trajanovski stands out from a host of well performed Olympians, his goalscoring knack instrumental in keeping UTS on top.

**BEST YOUNG PLAYER:** Norman Tome in the same mould as Paul Trimoli, is exciting around the box, and dangerously difficult for any defender.

**REALISTIC CHANCES:** If Olympic can avoid their habitual shooting themselves in the foot they will get to the decider.

**BEST RESULT:** In Round 8 Olympic from somewhere found a 2-2 draw against fellow challengers Sydney United coming back apallingly late in the match to prove they are made of the right stuff.

**BIGGEST SHOCK:** Leading the table at the halfway point without as much as a stutter.



1 9 9 6

# All Entertainment Team

By Con Stavros

Exactly two years ago, ABSW listed a team of players for the 1994 season who we labelled as our "All Entertainment" team.

As fans started to demand more razzle and dazzle for their cash at the gate, the criteria for selection was based strictly upon a mixture of appeal, excitement and flair.

Not necessarily the technically best players, the wish list of talent exuded action and enjoyment and above all gave spectators value for money week in week out.

Soccer is increasingly more entertainment orientated and with that in mind, here is the second ever ABSW All Entertainment Team.

Like the original, the ABSW All Entertainment team of 1996 has to be attacking minded, so the formation chosen is a 4-3-3.

Players are only grouped by their category (defender, midfielder or forward) and are not listed by specific position.

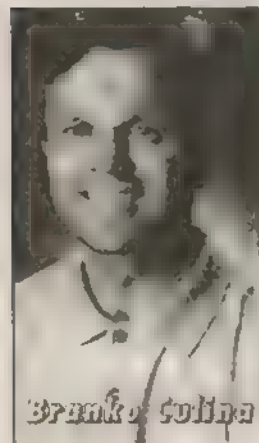


## COACH

**BRANKO CULINA**  
(SYDNEY UNITED)

His teams may not be the prettiest to watch but Branko just pips Newcastle's John Kosmina here thanks to his sideline antics of late.

Frank Arok may have mastered the touchline tantrum, but Branko is learning fast that the quickest way to the top is publicity and it doesn't matter whether its good or bad.



Branko Culina

## DEFENDERS

**CLAUDIO CANOSA**  
(MORWELL FALCONS)

You've got to love this guy. A red-headed lanky Argentinian of Italian descent playing professional football in rural Victoria and loving it.

Claudio regularly destroys opposition forwards, grins through broken teeth and dedicates the game to his wife and kids.

**ALAN HUNTER**  
(BRISBANE STRIKERS)

Hasn't this guy been playing for a hundred years?

Even so he's still a tough as nails, no nonsense kind of defender who is worth watching for the way he intimidates opposing forwards with deceptive pace and good old fashioned terror. As a bonus he can go up and score if necessary.

**TONY POPOVIC**  
(SYDNEY UNITED)

Is this looking like a fearsome foursome or what?

A highly skilled defender Popovic is dominating and creative and full of experience beyond his still relatively young age. A prime pick.



PAUL TRIMBOLI  
A guiding light  
in the engine room.



**DAVE BARRETT**  
(SYDNEY OLYMPIC)

It seems like fans either love him or hate him, but Barrett is a top notch player.

A stand out for Olympic for a number of years now he not only knows how to shut out a danger man, but also goes forward to create attacks with clever skills and good pace.

**MIDFIELDERS**  
**NATHAN DAY**  
(WEST ADELAIDE)

There has to be a spot in this side for a man nicknamed "velcro" because of his huge sideburns.

Day has appeared out of nowhere this season (ie the SA Premier League) and has become a hot property, even spoiling South Melbourne's first match at their new ground with a late winner.

Technically a utility, his runs down the left wing, his penchant for goals and yellow cards make him good value for the highlight films.

**PAUL TRIMBOLI**  
(SOUTH MELBOURNE)

A previous member of this team, Trimboli is once

again here as the guiding light in the engine room of our dream team.

Silky skills, excellent vision and a recent spark of aggression make him a stand out even amongst this talented collection of athletes. Thank goodness Eddie Thomson is finally becoming a believer.

**PAUL WADE**  
(CANBERRA COSMOS)

Whilst the Captain Courageous stuff is getting tiresome, Wade is still proving that he is a good player with plenty to offer in the right circumstances.

Above all else Wade realises the need to give the fans entertainment and will usually go out of his way to get the crowd into a game.

Is scoring goals this season which makes for those nice finger pointing runs to the crowd.

**FORWARDS**  
**FRANCIS AWARITEFE**  
(MARCONI FAIRFIELD)

I don't know why South Melbourne let this guy go, because if you haven't noticed he scores goals regularly enough, plays hard ball and isn't afraid to get his point across.

Best of all he is unorthodox enough to be unpredictable and you have to like that.

**JOHN MARKOVSKI**  
(MELBOURNE KNIGHTS)

Hasn't played much this year but let's face it, he's fun to watch when he's on the park.

He hardly runs, he always looks out of shape and his attitude says I don't care, but his left foot is



fearsome and he almost always does something memorable on the field.

The proverbial rebel, Markovski can even provoke the crowd to a near riot just by wearing a t-shirt.

**DAMIAN MORI**  
(ADELAIDE CITY)

No entertainment team can be complete without the new world record holder for the fastest goal.

An exciting player anyway, the audacity to try the shot was only exceeded by the fact that he was brilliant enough to actually score.

Ever the party pooper, Mori's old coach Zoran Matic came out in the press after the game and criticised Mori for trying the shot because it normally would mean giving away possession.

**GOALKEEPER**  
**BRETT HUGHES**  
(WOLLONGONG)

This position was the hardest to fill and it seems like goalkeepers are becoming decidedly conservative despite their crazy reputation.

Hughes is a good 'keeper, but that hasn't stopped him picking the ball out of the net more times than anyone else this season and hey, gals are fun.

Hughes too has a sense of theatre and can play up to the crowd.

Even when his team was 5-0 down to South Melbourne with three minutes left he committed a needless professional foul and then joked with the crowd after getting a red card.

## 1994 TEAM

### COACH

Frank Arok ..... (Marconi Fairfield)

### GOALKEEPER

Steve Mautone ..... (Morwell Falcons)

### DEFENDERS

Mehmet Durakovic ..... (South Melbourne)

Tony Vidmar ..... (Adelaide City)

Fausto de Amicis ..... (Melbourne Knights)

Ransford Banini ..... (Brunswick Pumas)

### MIDFIELDERS

Steve Corica ..... (Marconi Fairfield)

Damian Mori ..... (Adelaide City)

Paul Trimboli ..... (South Melbourne)

Forwards: John Markovski ..... (Morwell Falcons)

Francis Awaritefe ..... (South Melbourne)

Marshall Soper ..... (Parramatta Eagles)



Brett Hughes



# Playboy Saad says "It's time to get serious"

BY JOSEPHINE NE  
OF REUTERS

Abbas Saad looked happy moving among the crowds of late night club goers, shaking hands, thumping backs, signing autographs and posing for photographs with adoring female fans.

Saad was still a star at the night club he part owns, but his hung-up soccer boots are what he really yearns for.

He was Singapore's darling when he played a pivotal role in the nation's recapture of the Malaysia Cup in December 1994 after 14 barren years.

But his world collapsed in June when he was convicted of match-fixing, fined Singapore \$A47,355 and banned for life from playing soccer professionally worldwide.

Late last year, Saad, a Lebanese-born Australian, returned to the place of his nightmare.

This time it was to open, with four other partners, the HotBod Club — featuring sexy male dancers who strip to their underwear — in tropically steamy but conservative Singapore.

"It is not a strip show. It is more like a Hollywood dance show," he insisted.

But clearly it was the place for hot-blooded women who make up 70 percent of the clubgoers, to ogle at gyrating, muscle-rippling male bodies.

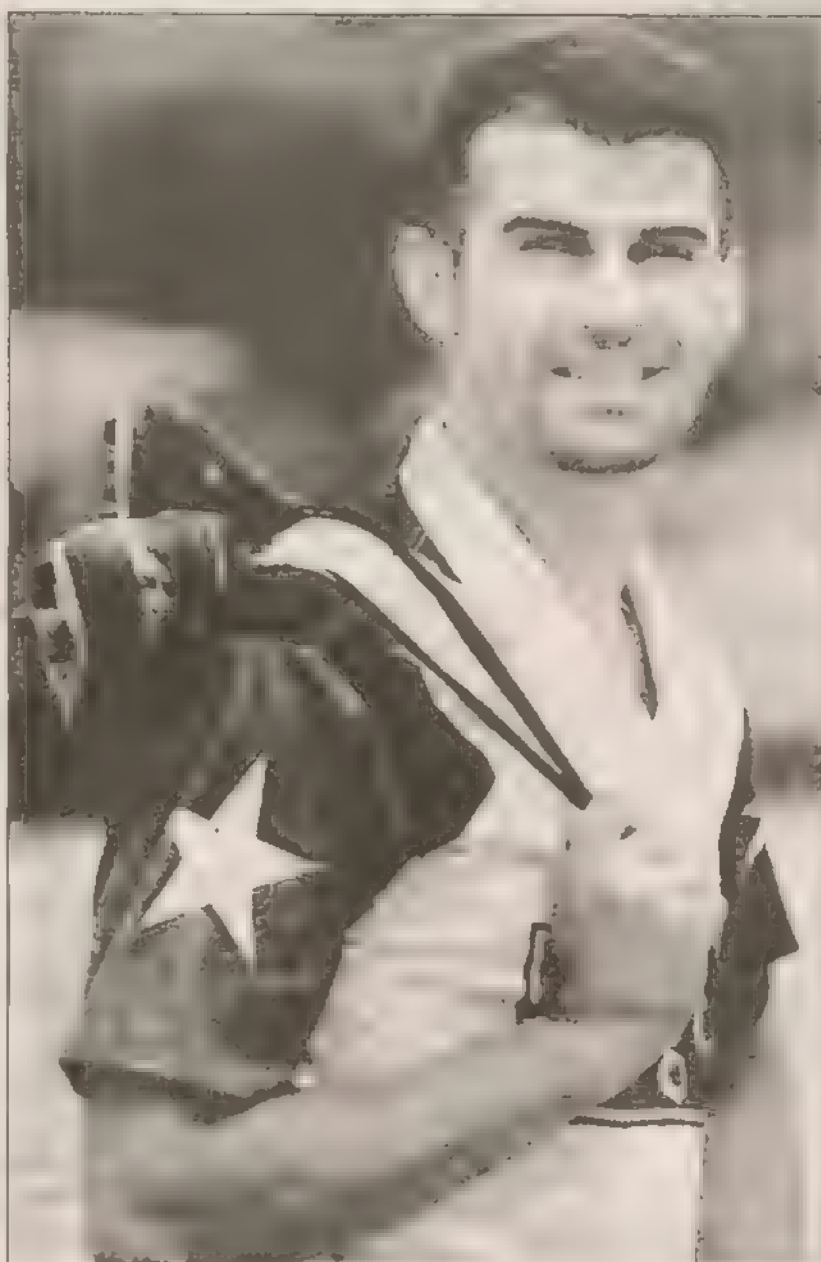
Lest anyone thinks the club is an extension of his much-reported flamboyant lifestyle of wild parties and pretty women, Saad said he had turned more sombre in the last few years.

"As time goes by you mature and you think a lot of what you're going to do and what you're doing these days. I'm more serious now, definitely," said the 29-year old ex-striker of boyish good looks and lean physique.

He has also recently published a book, "Abbas, My Story", which details his life from his boyhood in war-torn Lebanon to his headline-grabbing exit from the Singapore-Malaysia soccer scene.

"It's me. It's a frank me," Abbas said.

What about his



Abbas Saad: Says he won't be happy until he can play soccer again.

*"I'm working on getting back to football."*

reputation as a ladies man?

"That's a pretty harsh thing to say. People misinterpret your character from what they read in the newspapers. Everybody sees you as a celebrity and there are lady fans. I enjoy myself as any single person would."

As a further counter to what he called an overblown image, Saad said he was a family-oriented person and would like to marry by 30 and have "maybe three or four kids".

Besides the club, which

he didn't consider work — "I just meet my friends and my fans" — Abbas was pondering other business ventures.

"I would like to go into the management of a food chain," he said. HotBod is also considering expanding into Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

All such plans may get shoved under the carpet if he gets to play soccer professionally again. Saad said he was planning an appeal against his life ban.

"I'm working on getting back to football. I'll be to appealing to

FIFA (Federation of International Football Associations) and hopefully to FAS (Football Association of Singapore). The main thing for me is to get back to football. I'm pretty confident something will give sooner or later," he said.

"I'm pretty hungry for the game. I think this is sufficient punishment for me or anybody."

He said he was not bitter about the ban. But, he added: "It's just taken half of my life away. I'm living on a half-life until I get back to soccer, then I'll probably be more jovial, more smiling."

Saad sparkles at the thought of getting back to professional soccer. "God created me with such a talent. I can't wait to start entertaining people (with football) again. I've got another five good years to give."

## QUEENSLAND

### New Director of Coaching

Peter Kelly has won appointment as the new State Director of Coaching for the Queensland Soccer Federation.

Kelly's appointment, announced last Wednesday by QSF vice president Guido Canale, follows the move by former State Director of Coaching Jim Selby to the position of National Coaching and Development Manager for Soccer Australia.

Kelly obtained his Level III coaching credentials in Bundaberg before taking up his first full-time appointment with the Mackay Soccer Federation.

This was followed by a transfer to Toowoomba and ultimately to the largest junior zone in the State, Brisbane Southern Districts.

His appointment with Brisbane Southern Districts also provided him with the opportunity to act as Assistant Director of Coaching to Jim Selby.

"Basically I'll be looking to continue the coaching programs and schemes that are currently in place, but also intend to add my own influence," he said.

## QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION



Kelly believed his Queensland heritage would also assist him in his new role.

"Having been a player and a coach in Queensland, I think I have a good feel for Queensland soccer, and I also think my extensive travelling over the years will add international input."

## COFFS HARBOUR

BY MAL TURNER

The Coffs Harbour and District Soccer Association has a new look board of directors to steer the game into 1996 and beyond.

Four new board members in Bruce Osborn, Kevin Carle, Diane McCabe and Fran Short will assist new President Peter Ide and Vice President Jim Graham project a more positive outlook for the future of soccer in the area.

Not seeking re-election at the AGM will be long serving members Les Douglas (President), John Simpson (Treasurer), Hank Spiekermann and Tom Guz.

The present 14 member board will be reduced to 10 with four places left open to facilitate the use of specialised professional personal as the board requires.

New President Peter Ide, a local businessman and dairy farmer, has already scrutinised the articles of

association and has vowed to tighten up loose ends that have been left open to criticism in the past.

Ide and the new faces along with the existing board members will look to re-organise the Association's financial structure as well as bringing into being a range of fresh new ideas.

The fact that the board has appointed two new women directors in the light of the amalgamation of both senior men's and women's soccer statewide is a very positive step in its self.

Vice President Jim Graham has been around the soccer scene for many years and his experienced methodical approach to business will be another asset for President Ide.

One of the first tasks for the new board will be to look at the structure of the soccer season as a whole and decide whether there should be a two or three round competition and what weekends should be left free for representative fixtures.

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# NOW FOR THE

BY ORLO BLAKE

## Attack better form of

Sydney United fans will hope their team has learned the lessons of last year while Melbourne Knights will have to defy an overwhelming trend to win this year's championship in the Ericsson Cup.

Those are the topical conclusions to be drawn from our follow-up to the recent feature on the failure of the league's most prolific attacks rarely snuffing championship success in the National League.

This time around we'll show you that going into the finals with a team riding on the back of a miserly defence rarely brings success, which is good news for exponents of attacking soccer.

A well-balanced team — as well as a fair smattering of ability — is required to win a championship in this competition, as these exclusive ABSW tables show.

Just as free-scoring attacks have generally failed to bring finals success in Ericsson Cup history, the finals records of the league's best-ever defensive units are just as unimpressive.

Only five times in two decades of National League competition have teams boasting a league best defence gone on to win the Australian title.

Whilst we showed in our previous feature a fortnight ago that defence usually has the edge in finals games, it is clear that over emphasis on the defensive element of a game plan can be just as destructive as erring on the side of all out attack.

Only twice in 11 years of finals deciding the title have league best defences edged through the finals to a championship victory. This suggests that the cut-throat element of

finals gives the edge to teams which can get at least the necessary goals to squeak a win with the game in the balance.

Last year Melbourne Knights became only the fourth side in 11 years of finals-deciders to pinch the biggest game of the year riding on the back of the league's most lethal attack.

This year the Knights have moulded a rock-solid league best defence, which



past history suggest will not be enough for a championship repeat.

Sydney United's

previously impotent attack cost that team dearly in last year's finals, the club's outstanding defence of

last season alone was unable to pull Brank Culina's team through to grand final day.

It appears that the lessons have been learned, with that club's still fearsome defence being complimented by what is at least a slightly more varied and damaging attack this time around.

Only twice in the previous decade of National League finals counting for the title have the regular season's top-defensive

outfit come through with the goods on grand final day.

Only South Melbourne in 1984 and Marconi in 1989 have gone in to the finals as the league number one ranked defence of the season and gone on to take the biggest prize.

Yet significantly both of those teams had the mix near perfect, the Blues going in with a high-powered Charlie Egan — Doug Brown forward combination and Marconi winning the title in

1989 with its attack and defence both the league's best for that particular year.

No other grand final winning team has boasted both the league's most prolific attack and most stingy defence in one season.

In all but two of the last 11 seasons the league's best ranked defensive teams over the home and away series have been found out under the pressure of finals.

Only twice — Sydney United last year and Marconi in 1989 — have the tightest defences not wilted significantly when the pressure is on.

Every other team boasting miserly defence in the regular season has had its goals against average rise — sometimes markedly — during the finals against quality opposition.

The best example being South Melbourne in the back to back campaigns of 1992/93 and 1993/94, when the Blues boasted a league best goals against average in both seasons but conceded a remarkable 17 goals in just six finals games in those two years.

Most telling of all is the number of defensive sides to even play in grand finals, let alone win them.

Between 1984 and 1994/95, of the 15 teams ranked best or equal best in defence in any season only two even made the biggest game of the year.

And that means the message must be clear to the defending (excuse the pun) title-holders from Somers Street.

New coach Ian Dobson had better get the combination working up front again or that grand final feeling will be just a distant memory for Melbourne Knights.

### WHEN FIRST PAST THE POST DECIDED THE SEASON

1977

No.1 ranked team on defence: Marconi Fairfield

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

PLD	TOTAL GOALS AGAINST	AVE PER GAME	FINAL LADDER POSITION
26	21	0.81	2nd

1978

No.1 ranked team on defence: West Adelaide and Sydney City

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

PLD	TOTAL GOALS AGAINST	AVE PER GAME	FINAL LADDER POSITION
26	27	1.04	West Ad 1st
26	27	1.04	Syd. City 2nd

1979

No.1 ranked team on defence: Adelaide City

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

PLD	TOTAL GOALS AGAINST	AVE PER GAME	FINAL LADDER POSITION
26	27	1.04	5th

1980

No.1 ranked team on defence: South Melbourne

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

PLD	TOTAL GOALS AGAINST	AVE PER GAME	FINAL LADDER POSITION
26	21	0.81	3rd

1981

No.1 ranked team on defence: Brisbane City

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

PLD	TOTAL GOALS AGAINST	AVE PER GAME	FINAL LADDER POSITION
30	25	0.83	3rd

1982

No.1 ranked team on defence: Sydney City

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

PLD	TOTAL GOALS AGAINST	AVE PER GAME	FINAL LADDER POSITION
30	28	0.93	1st

1983

No.1 ranked team on defence: Newcastle United

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

PLD	TOTAL GOALS AGAINST	AVE PER GAME	FINAL LADDER POSITION
30	26	0.87	5th

1987

No.1 ranked team on defence: Apia Leichhardt

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

PLD	TOTAL GOALS AGAINST	AVE PER GAME	FINAL LADDER POSITION
24	21	0.88	1st

### HOW ALL THE CAMPS HAVE RATED

YEAR	CHAMPION	OVERALL DEFENCE RANKING
1977	Sydney City	2nd
1978	West Adelaide	1st (equal)
1979	Marconi Fairfield	7th
1980	Sydney City	2nd
1981	Sydney City	3rd
1982	Sydney City	1st
1983	St George	2nd
1984	South Melbourne	1st
1985	Melbourne Zebras	2nd (equal)
1986	Adelaide City	3rd
1987	Apia Leichhardt	1st
1988	Marconi Fairfield	2nd
1989	Marconi Fairfield	1st (equal)
89/90	UTS Olympic	4th (equal)
90/91	South Melbourne	10th
91/92	Adelaide City	2nd
92/93	Marconi Fairfield	3rd
93/94	Adelaide City	4th
94/95	Melbourne Knights	3rd

— Rankings based on overall league comparison for home and away season only.



# GOOD NEWS...

## defence in Finals Series

### TIGHT DEFENCES OPENED UP WHEN PRESSURE WAS ON

1984\*

**No.1 ranked team on defence: South Melbourne**

REGULAR SEASON RECORD			FINALS SERIES RECORD		
TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION	TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION
PLD AGAINST	GAME		PLD AGAINST	GAME	AFTER FINALS
28	20	0.71	4	6	1.50 1st

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** Peter Laumets

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** 16

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** 0

1985\*

**No.1 ranked team on defence: Heidelberg United**

REGULAR SEASON RECORD			FINALS SERIES RECORD		
TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION	TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION
PLD AGAINST	GAME		PLD AGAINST	GAME	AFTER FINALS
22	17	0.77	2	4	2.00 eq.7th

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** Jeff Olver

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** 10

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** 0

1986\*

**No.1 ranked team on defence: Sunshine George Cross**

REGULAR SEASON RECORD			FINALS SERIES RECORD		
TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION	TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION
PLD AGAINST	GAME		PLD AGAINST	GAME	AFTER FINALS
22	17	0.77	2	3	1.50 eq.7th

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** Sean Keogh

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** 9

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** 0

1988

**No.1 ranked team on defence: UTS Olympic**

REGULAR SEASON RECORD			FINALS SERIES RECORD		
TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION	TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION
PLD AGAINST	GAME		PLD AGAINST	GAME	AFTER FINALS
26	22	0.85	1	3	3.00 5th

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** Clint Gosling

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** 10

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** 0

1989

**No.1 ranked team on defence: Marconi Fairfield, St George, Preston and Adelaide City**

REGULAR SEASON RECORD			FINALS SERIES RECORD		
TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION	TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION
PLD AGAINST	GAME		PLD AGAINST	GAME	AFTER FINALS
26	24	0.92	Marconi	2	0.00 1st
26	24	0.92	St George	3	0.67 3rd
26	24	0.92	Preston	1	2.00 5th
26	24	0.92	Ad. City	missed finals & finished 6th	

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** Bob Catlin

(Marconi), Mike Gibson (St George), Phil Traianedes (Preston) and Robbie Zabica, Adelaide City.

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** Marconi 8, St George 5, Preston 8 and Adelaide City 8.

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** Marconi 2, St George 1 and Preston 0.

1989 - 90

**No.1 ranked team on defence: South Melbourne and Adelaide City**

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

PLD	TOTAL GOALS AGAINST	AVE PER GAME		PLD	TOTAL GOALS AGAINST	AVE PER GAME	POSITION AFTER FINALS
26	23	0.88	Sth Melb	2	2	1.00	4th
26	23	0.88	Ad. City	1	2	2.00	5th

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** Bruce MacLaren (Sth Melb) and Robbie Zabica (Adelaide City).

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** South Melbourne 10 and Adelaide City 11.

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** Neither team recorded one.

1990 - 91

**No.1 ranked team on defence: Adelaide City**

REGULAR SEASON RECORD			FINALS SERIES RECORD		
TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION	TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION
PLD AGAINST	GAME		PLD AGAINST	GAME	AFTER FINALS
26	24	0.92	3	5	1.67 3rd

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** Robbie Zabica

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** 10

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** 1

1991 - 92

**No.1 ranked team on defence: Wollongong City**

REGULAR SEASON RECORD			FINALS SERIES RECORD		
TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION	TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION
PLD AGAINST	GAME		PLD AGAINST	GAME	AFTER FINALS
26	17	0.62	1	1	1.00 5th

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** John Flan

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** 13

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** 0

1992 - 93

**No.1 ranked team on defence: South Melbourne**

REGULAR SEASON RECORD			FINALS SERIES RECORD		
TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION	TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION
PLD AGAINST	GAME		PLD AGAINST	GAME	AFTER FINALS
26	23	0.88	3	11	3.67 3rd

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** Dean Anastasiadis

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** 9

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** 0

1993 - 94

**No.1 ranked team on defence: South Melbourne**

REGULAR SEASON RECORD			FINALS SERIES RECORD		
TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION	TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION
PLD AGAINST	GAME		PLD AGAINST	GAME	AFTER FINALS
26	20	0.77	3	6	2.00 3rd

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** Dean Anastasiadis

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** 12

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** 0

1994 - 95

**No.1 ranked team on defence: Sydney United**

REGULAR SEASON RECORD			FINALS SERIES RECORD		
TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION	TOTAL GOALS	AVE PER	POSITION
PLD AGAINST	GAME		PLD AGAINST	GAME	AFTER FINALS
24	19	0.79	3	4	0.75 4th

**First choice goalkeeper that season:** Zjeko Kalac

**Defensive clean sheets in regular season:** 13

**Defensive clean sheets in finals:** 1

\* Denotes old Southern/Northern Division National League, when two final five series were played prior to a national grand final between division champions (ie - 10 finalists from 24-team league).

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# WOMEN'S WRITES



Jeff Oliver: Ex-Heidelberg and Socceroo goalkeeper now active in coaching ranks.

## SCHOOLGIRLS WINNING START

The Australian Schoolgirls kicked off their 10-day tour of New Zealand with two wins over regional sides

**17 JANUARY**

Australian Schoolgirls.....1 Auckland U/17. 0  
Carly Copeland

**19 JANUARY**

Australian Schoolgirls.....8 Bay Plenty rep team...0  
April Mann 2, Amy Taylor 2, Carly Copeland, Peta Shirlaw, Debbie Gorton, & an own goal.

The remaining match program sees the Aussies take on two more regional teams before the big match against New Zealand:

**Mon 22:** Australian Schoolgirls v Auckland U/17

**Tue 23:** Australian Schoolgirls v  
Auckland Schoolgirls

**Tue 25:** Australian Schoolgirls v  
New Zealand U/17 team

## WOMEN PLAYERS WANTED

Belmore Hercules

ALL AGES

## TRIALS

Lees Park, Croydon Park  
Wednesday, February 7  
6.30pm

Phone Alan Milligan on  
(02) 533 5410 (AH) for details

# Olver & Brown appointed as assistants

ITC coaches Jeff Olver (Victoria) and Greg Brown (Queensland Academy of Sport) were appointed last week to the two Assistant National Coaching positions.

The pair will be working alongside National coach Tom Sermanni in team competition and training.

"I'm delighted to be offered the Assistant position," said Brown, who heads both the men's and women's soccer programs at QAS.

"I've had a great time working with the QAS girls and more recently the National team. I'm very impressed with the standard and the commitment of women's soccer in general to go forward, and proud to be a part of it."

Former Socceroo goalkeeper Olver expressed similar sentiments, "I'm thrilled to be picked as one of the Assistants. Women's soccer now with the Olympics and everything happening is very exciting and I'm very glad to be involved."

Nominations were called last October for the honorary positions. They attracted a number of applicants from both within the existing women's soccer coaching set-up as



Greg Brown: Former Parramatta Eagles and West Adelaide star striker.

well as outside.

"AWSA is delighted with

the calibre of coaching and technical staff being

attracted to the women's game it can only be

good for the future," stated AWSA Chief Executive Peter Hugg.

Also announced was the appointment of NSW's Leigh Wardell as Scholarship coach, an AWSA initiative to foster developing female coaches, particularly ex-international players. Wardell, a member of the first Australian team in 1978, represented her country for a decade.

Assistant coach to the NSW ITC program, Wardell has led the Blues to victory at the last two National Youth Championships.

Sermanni had taken the opportunity to utilise all ITC coaches and a number of up and coming female coaches as assistants throughout the past year during the various training camps and competition held on home soil.

More recently at the senior camp in Newcastle and the International Youth Tournament, Sermanni gave the ITC's more of a hands-on responsibility, allowing him to step back and concentrate on assessment and selection.

The formal appointment of these assistants should further consolidate the elite coaching set-up at this vital stage of Australia's national team program.

## RAM SPONSORSHIP RENEWED

Ram Sportswear has renewed its ball sponsorship for another year with AWSA. Originally signed just prior to last year's World Cup campaign, the association has been a happy one.

AWSA Chief Executive Peter Hugg stated, "These balls have been used extensively throughout all National Championships and all training camps and international players played by Australia's National team, and coaches and players have been extremely impressed with the quality of the ball."

These sentiments have been formally recognised this month through FIFA's new Denominations program — a redefined and stricter testing and rating system for soccer balls. Ram submitted its top three match balls for testing, with all three gaining the honour of "FIFA Approved" status — the highest ranking possible.

"Ram Sports is happy to

announce our continued sponsorship of the AWSA and the women's National team," said Ram's Managing Director David Coates. "To continue this support we have had to ensure our soccer balls meet with FIFA's highest conditions."

The family business has grown over four years to become one of the top producers of soccer balls in the world. Being the only Australian owned sports brand with recognition of quality from FIFA is a great honour," added Coates.

"We have worked hard to ensure the Ram soccer balls are of the highest quality, and being one of the 22 brands worldwide to achieve this status, displays we have achieved this goal."

"Having our top three match balls pass the new stricter FIFA testing is very exciting. We can now offer the Australian soccer public soccer balls of the absolute highest quality as determined under the new FIFA Denominations program."

Further AWSA/Ram

initiatives will be announced in the near future. Coates, himself a soccer coach, is well aware of the growth and potential of women's soccer. Ram balls are available at good retail stores.

## DIARY DATES

**January 25-28**  
Sydney Sports Expo  
Darling Harbour,  
Sydney

**Saturday February 10**  
NSW ITC v ACT ITC  
(prior to Socceroos v  
Japan)

**Brnadon Park,  
Wollongong**

**Wednesday  
February 14**  
Australian U/21 v  
Victoria Select  
(prior to men's Australia  
v Japan)

**Bob Jane Stadium,  
Melbourne**

**February 11-15**  
Australian U/21 Training  
Camp  
Melbourne

## TOP YOUTH TO GATHER IN MELBOURNE

Kicking off this year's AWSA elite training program will be an Under 21 training camp in Melbourne, February 11-15. A group of 25 of the country's best young players will be invited to the camp.

Incorporated in the camp schedule is a preliminary match at the Australia Socceroos versus Japan International, with the young Aussies taking on a Victorian Select team. The Melbourne public can catch the action at the Bob Jane Stadium on Wednesday February 14.

## SUCCESSFUL CLINIC IN QUEENSLAND

Women's Soccer Queensland last week held a successful junior coaching clinic at Brisbane's Griffith University. Headed by a number of top officials, both local and guest professionals, the six days were enjoyed by all.

National coach Tom Sermanni was an invited guest coach, and joined Queensland State Coach Guenter Pfuhl, Queensland Youth Coach Geoff Howarth, QAS Coach Greg Brown, QAS Assistant Coach Connie Selby, and ex-international goalkeeper Sue Clayton.

Also assisting were a number of State representative players with Lesley Mann as manager.

A highlight for the week was the appearance of special guest Frank Farina, former Socceroo and Brisbane Striker star. Farina enlightened the youngsters with a talk about life as a professional footballer.

AWSA now plans to conduct similar clinics around the country.



# ITALY's Serie A & B

## TABLES

### SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	18	10	7	1	27	12	37
Fiorentina	18	11	3	4	33	19	36
Parma	18	9	7	2	29	16	34
Juventus	18	8	5	5	27	19	29
Roma	18	7	7	4	23	16	28
Lazio	18	7	5	6	32	21	26
Napoli	18	6	8	4	18	17	26
Inter	18	6	7	5	23	16	25
Vicenza	18	6	7	5	17	16	25
Udinese	18	7	4	7	22	24	25
Cagliari	18	7	2	9	17	25	23
Sampdoria	18	5	7	6	27	29	22
Atalanta	18	6	4	8	21	29	22
Piacenza	18	5	4	9	20	34	19
Torino	18	3	8	7	17	29	17
Bari	18	4	4	10	25	38	16
Padova	18	4	3	11	18	29	15
Cremonese	18	2	6	10	21	28	12

### SERIE B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cesena	20	8	7	5	28	19	31
Bologna	20	7	10	3	18	13	31
Pescara	20	9	4	7	26	26	31
Ancona	19	9	2	8	28	23	29
Genoa	20	8	5	7	33	29	29
Palermo	20	6	11	3	15	15	29
Cosenza	20	6	10	4	23	20	28
Verona	20	7	7	6	20	18	28
Reggiana	20	7	7	6	18	19	28
Brescia	20	7	5	8	26	22	26
Perugia	20	6	8	6	23	21	26
Venezia	20	6	8	6	16	19	26
Salernitana	20	6	7	7	17	15	25
Foggia	20	6	7	7	16	20	25
F. Andria	20	5	8	7	22	23	23
Avellino	20	6	5	9	21	27	23
Reggina	19	5	8	6	19	26	23
Lucchese	19	4	11	5	15	20	22
Chievo V.	20	3	12	5	15	17	21
Pistoiese	19	3	7	9	18	25	16

## RESULTS

### SERIE A

Cagliari.....4	Udinese.....1
Cremonese.....3	Juventus.....3
Milan.....1	Padova.....0
Napoli.....1	Bari.....0
Parma.....2	Atalanta.....0
Roma.....3	Sampdoria.....1
Torino.....0	Fiorentina.....3
Vicenza.....1	Inter.....1
Piacenza.....2	Lazio.....1

### SERIE B

Ancona.....4	Reggina.....2
Avellino.....2	Venezia.....1
Bologna.....2	F. Andria.....1
Brescia.....1	Pescara.....0
Chievo V.....2	Lucchese.....2
Cosenza.....0	Salernitana.....0
Foggia.....1	Perugia.....0
Genoa.....2	Verona.....2
Palermo.....0	Reggiana.....0
Pistoiese.....1	Cesena.....2

# Three points separate top trio

**Goals by Gabriel Batistuta and Francesco Baiano earned second-placed Fiorentina a 3-0 win at Torino last Saturday to keep up the pressure on Italian league leader Milan, who beat Padova with a Roberto Baggio penalty.**

With Parma beating Atalanta 2-0 and champion Juventus relying on a last-minute goal from Pietro Vierchowod to draw 3-3 at Cremonese the top four places in Serie A remain unchanged.

Milan has 37 points from 18 matches, one ahead of Fiorentina and three in front of Parma. Juventus, still seeking last season's form, lies a distant fourth on 29 points.

The inspirational Batistuta set Fiorentina on its way to its eighth successive match without defeat by rounding off a superb three-man move involving Baiano and Anselmo Robbiati in the 58th minute.

Baiano added a second in the 69th, striking on the counter-attack before Batistuta's 13th goal of the season completed Torino's first defeat in six matches.

At the San Siro, Milan again badly missed the influence of European footballer of the year George Weah, absent on African Nations' Cup duty for Liberia.

Despite creating a host of chances and hitting the bar, the first division pacesetter had to wait until the 56th minute before taking the lead with Baggio's spot kick — after Dejan Savicevic was brought down.

Weah's replacement Marco Simone saw a later penalty parried by Adriano Bonauti.

Parma's second successive home win was marked by a goal of stunning quality by midfielder Gabriele Pin in the 37th minute.

Pin, a regular last year but playing only his ninth game of the season, dummied past one opponent in the centre-circle before unleashing an unstoppable 30-metre shot.

Gianfranco Zola set up Alessandro Meli's second in the 45th minute before Christian Vieri squandered Atalanta's best chance to get back into the match by striking a second-half penalty against the post.

Abel Balbo scored a hat-trick as fifth-placed Roma improved one of Serie A's worst home records — two wins in their previous eight matches — with a 3-1 victory over Sampdoria. At Cremona, Gianluca Vialli, playing against his old club, gave Juventus the perfect



Abel Balbo: his hat-trick was all Roma scored in win over Sampdoria.

start when he flicked home Fabrizio Ravanelli's header in the 11th minute.

Signs that last week's Italian Supercup victory over Parma signalled a revival in Juventus's fortunes were dashed in the 22nd minute when Angelo Peruzzi could only help Andrea Tentoni's shot into the net.

Soon after the break Serie A's bottom-of-the-table team edged in front when Riccardo Maspero converted a penalty.

Ravanelli's own spot kick, his third in as many matches, looked like salvaging a point for the visitors until Tentoni scrambled a third goal for Cremonese in the 76th minute.

It took the veteran Vierchowod to keep alive the champions' increasingly faint hopes of retaining their title. He poked the ball over the line after a goalmouth melee in the third minute of stoppage time.

Fiorentina's Portuguese international Rui Costa, in open conflict with his coach

Claudio Ranieri after 11 substitutions in 17 matches, sparked the move that led to Batistuta's opening goal. He released Robbiati whose

first-time cross shot left the Argentine with a simple tap-in.

Torino, previously unbeaten under coach

Franco Scoglio, were left to rue defender Daniele Carnasacchi's goal line clearance from their Croat striker Veldin Karic in the first-half.

Milan started confidently against Padova with Christian Panucci's header cannoning back off the bar in the 10th minute.

But as the match progressed Weah's absence underlined Milan's shortcomings in the box, Zvonimir Boban, Simone and Savicevic squandering fine approach work.

Milan's breakthrough followed a foul on Savicevic. He was dragged down as he pumped to head a Baggio free kick.

Baggio converted the penalty in textbook fashion but the lesson in finishing was lost on Simone whose 58th minute penalty was struck too close to Bonauti.

Marcello Otero's 89th minute penalty for Vicenza deprived Internazionale of their first away win of the season. Maurizio Ganz had given Inter a first-half lead. Despite his team stretching its unbeaten run to eight league matches, manager Ranieri refused to comment on Fiorentina's chances of a first league title since 1959.

"It's a bit premature for talk of the championship," he said. "Let's wait and see where we are at the end of February."

In a late night match, a superbly-judged chip from Niccolò Caccia gave struggling Piacenza a 2-1 win over Lazio, its fifth consecutive away loss.

Caccia's 10th goal of the season completed a fine comeback by Piacenza after Alen Boksic's 50th minute effort had put Lazio ahead

## Juventus take Super Cup

A first-half goal by Gianluca Vialli gave champion Juventus a 1-0 win over Parma last Wednesday for its first Italian Super Cup victory despite playing with 10 men for the second half.

Vialli's goal came in the 32nd minute as he tucked the ball home after Alessandro del Piero crossed to Italy international Fabrizio Ravanelli on the far post for him to tap across goal as Parma's defence hesitated.

Juventus was reduced to 10 men in the 40th minute when goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi was sent off for handling the ball outside the area in a clash with Parma's Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov.

Television replays later showed that Stoichkov had handled the ball just

before Peruzzi's intervention.

Del Piero came off to make way for reserve goalkeeper Michelangelo Rampulla. The second half was played in thick fog, slowing down play at the Delle Alpi stadium.

The Cup, invented eight years ago to bring together the league champions and Italian Cup winners, was a strange affair this year as Juventus won both titles in 1995.

Last season was dominated by Juventus's clashes with Parma. They met six times in total — Juventus winning twice in the league, twice in the Italian Cup final and then losing the two leg UEFA Cup final 2-1 on aggregate.

Juventus's only prior Super Cup appearance was against Napoli in 1990, when they were humiliated 5-1.



# REAL MADRID SACK COACH AFTER LOSS

Spanish club Real Madrid fired coach Jorge Valdano after losing 2-1 at home last Sunday to lowly neighbour Rayo Vallecano.

Valdano, who led Real to the Spanish first division title last year in his first season in charge, will be replaced by Vicente del Bosque on a temporary basis.

Former Deportivo Coruna coach Arsenio Iglesias and ex-Real player Jose Antonio Camacho, currently in charge of Espanyol, have already been linked by the Spanish media with the Real job.

The decision to sack Valdano, who scored in

Argentina's 1986 World Cup final victory over West Germany, came just three days after Real was knocked out of the Spanish Cup by Espanyol.

The loss to Rayo Vallecano left Real languishing in eighth place in the league.

With a tough European Cup quarter-final against Juventus to come, Real faces the disastrous prospect of not qualifying for European competition next season.

"It's a sad day, we hoped to stay to the end of the season and make a comeback," said Valdano, who will leave Real with deputy coach Angel Cappa

and other assistants who joined the club with him.

The news overshadowed events on the field last Sunday in the Spanish league.

Leader Atletico Madrid lost 1-0 away at Real Sociedad in a scrappy match lit up by Oscar de Paula's superb strike from 20 metres midway through the first half.

Atletico's lead at the top was cut by only one point to six as second-placed Compostela could manage only a 1-1 draw in the Galician derby at home to Celta Vigo.

Barcelona moved up to third after winning 1-0 at home to bottom-placed Valladolid, which missed a

penalty just seven minutes from time. The Barcelona goal was scored just after the break by club captain Jose Maria Bakero.

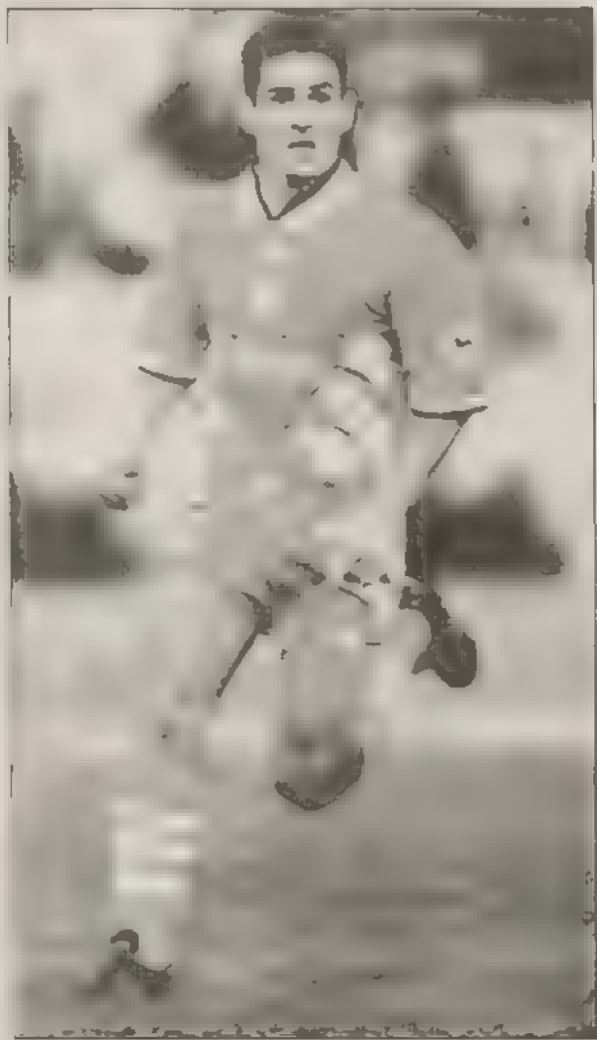
Espanyol, seven points behind Atletico, trails Barcelona on goal average. It twice came from behind to draw 2-2 at Salamanca.

Valencia consolidated fifth place on Saturday with a 2-1 victory at home to Deportivo Coruna, which slipped to ninth after Tenerife's 4-2 home win over Sevilla. Tenerife moved up three places to sixth, with Juan Pizzi becoming the leading scorer in Spain after notching all four goals against Sevilla.



Jorge Valdano: Former coach on outer after poor results.

## Clough goes to Man. City



Manchester City signed Liverpool's former England star Nigel Clough for \$A3.10 million last Friday, beating off a rival bid from First Division Birmingham.

Clough, 29, agreed to join City after nearly three hours of talks with chairman Francis Lee and manager Alan Ball.

"He's a player of top quality. He's a good disciplined lad on and off the field and he'll be a treat for our fans. We are delighted to have signed him," Ball said.

Clough enjoyed little success at Anfield following his \$A4.70 million move from Nottingham Forest in 1993.

The son of former Forest manager Brian Clough, he made just 39 Premier League appearances for Liverpool and his only start this season was in the 1-0 win at Bolton.

## ITALY SQUAD

Amedeo Carboni of AS Roma is expected to take over from flu victim and team captain Paolo Maldini in the heart of the Italian defence for tomorrow's (Wednesday) friendly international against Wales.

Six Juventus players and five Parma players are included in the 18-man Italian squad, named last Sunday as:

**Goalkeepers:** A Peruzzi (Juventus), F Toldo (Fiorentina).  
**Defenders:** L Apolloni (Parma), F Cannavaro (Parma), A Carboni (Roma), A Costacurta (Milan), C Ferrara (Juventus), R Mussi (Parma), M Torricelli (Juventus).

**Midfielders:** D Albertini (Milan), A Conte (Juventus), M Crippa (Parma), A Del Piero (Juventus), A Di Livio (Juventus), R Di Matteo (Lazio).

**Forwards:** P Casiraghi (Lazio), F Ravanelli (Juventus), G Zola (Parma).

## AJAX STILL SEEKING 1996 VICTORY

Ajax Amsterdam was left looking for its first win of 1996 after a thrilling Dutch First Division match against Sparta Rotterdam ended in 3-3 draw last Sunday.

Ajax tops the table with 53 points, just three ahead of PSV Eindhoven who moved up to 50 points after beating Heerenveen 3-1 on Friday.

Third-placed Feyenoord had no problems against Volendam winning 3-0 on Sunday.

Ajax, who last week lost its 53-match unbeaten league record when it went down 1-0 to Willem II Tilburg, fell behind again when Sparta midfielder Nico Jabink launched a 20-metre strike to put his side 1-0 up after only six minutes.

## Olympics bid by Brazil

Sports minister and legend Pele led a city-wide torch lighting ceremony last Saturday to officially confirm Rio's candidacy to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

"The Olympics in Brazil would be unforgettable," Pele said.

"This country's warmth and love of sports would certainly excite all competitors."

Pele was present at a specially-constructed sports arena on the sands of Copacabana Beach. More than 200 sports and entertainment celebrities gathered after passing torches down 250 city streets.

A final torch was then lit by two children on Corcovado Mountain overlooking the city.

This torch will remain burning until September 1997, when the 2004 Olympics site will be chosen.

Business has been booming in Rio from foreign and local investments. The city's plans to privatise public sports complexes such as Maracana Stadium, the 200,000-seat arena that was built for the 1950 World Cup, play a big role in Rio's candidacy.

This year's Olympics are in Atlanta, with the 1998 winter Games in Nagano, Japan; the 2000 summer Games in Sydney and the 2002 winter Games at Salt Lake City in the United States.

## Foreigners ruling prompts agreement

Italy's leading soccer clubs have reached a "gentleman's agreement" to adhere gradually to the Bosman ruling on the number of foreign players, sports newspapers reported last week.

They said the heads of AC Milan, Juventus, Roma and Lazio had agreed yesterday to field no more than five foreigners from next season as a first step towards fully adhering to the ruling last December 15 by the European Court of Justice.

The ruling, which has sparked a major row between soccer's ruling bodies and the European Commission, said that soccer's transfer system and limits on foreigners broke European Union (EU) law.

"The four clubs are allied on this point: they will adhere to the decision

of the European Union gradually," Franco Sensi, president of Roma, was quoted as telling Corriere dello Sport newspaper.

"We will not break the law, we will respect it but in soccer one needs to do things gradually," he added.

The reports said that Parma, Internazionale and Fiorentina were also represented at the working lunch in Milan.

Sensi said the lunch was preparation for a meeting this Thursday in Rome at which the heads of European soccer body UEFA, the Italian league and all Serie A clubs will discuss the Bosman case.

"We have a strong agreement, not just among us four but all through the professional league," Sensi said.

On Friday, the European

Commission gave UEFA six weeks to end its transfer fee system and nationality restrictions or face fines.

UEFA angered the Commission earlier this week by saying it would continue to maintain its "3+2 rule" — which limits teams to fielding a maximum of three foreign players and two "assimilated" foreigners — in European club competitions.

An assimilated player is one who has lived in the country for five years and has played in that club's youth team.

The English premier league has already embraced the Bosman ruling, which ended a five-year legal battle by Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman, but most other European Union leagues appear to be stalling until the clash between the Commission and UEFA is resolved.



# Reid wants Rush



Sunderland manager Peter Reid said last Sunday he would step up his efforts to bring Liverpool striker Ian Rush (left) to Roker Park.

After seeing his promotion-chasing team draw 0-0 with Leicester in a first division match, Reid said: "If (Liverpool manager) Roy Evans is willing to let him out on loan I will be very interested in bringing such a quality player to Roker Park."

"I'd love to bring him on loan but with Liverpool pushing for the title and still in the FA Cup it's highly unlikely they will want to let him go."

Nevertheless, Welsh international Rush said in the News of the World last Sunday he thought his 16-year career at Anfield might be coming to an end.

"I'm in the final year of my contract and there's been no development at the club. If Liverpool don't want me, I want other people to realise I am as hungry as ever."

Rush, who has scored more than 300 Cup and league goals for Liverpool, has failed to regain a permanent place in the side since recovering from a cartilage injury and remained on the substitutes' bench throughout Liverpool's 5-0 premier league win over Leeds on Saturday.

## WEAH THREATENS TO QUIT

World player of the year George Weah has threatened to quit playing for Liberia after the African Nations' Cup.

He is unhappy with the support given to the national side by Liberian soccer authorities.

"If the conditions don't change then I am resigning from the Liberian side. I have already told the officials and coaches that," said Weah after a training session in Durban last week.

"We must improve the team and must have better facilities. We can't go on like this. It's not just a question of finance — it's everything. Government money would help to support a better team."

It is understood that Weah, who plays for Italian club AC Milan, spent his own money on air tickets for the South African trip.

"I am supposedly the world's best player and yet I don't have a good (Liberian) team to play with. And, to be honest, I don't need to play for the national side."

Weah said he wanted young Liberian players to be sent to international training camps, financed by "those who are responsible for the team". Liberia beat Gabon 2-1 in its opening African Nations' Cup group match.

## 1996 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

### Ivorian hopes still alive

#### GROUP D

##### IVORY COAST 1 MOZAMBIQUE 0

Ivory Coast kept alive its hopes of qualifying for the last eight of the African Nations' Cup with a 1-0 victory over Mozambique at Boer Erasmus last Sunday.

A 33rd minute goal from Ivory Coast captain Joel Tiehi gave his side the points in its Group D match.

Ghana leads the standings with six points from its opening two games, followed by Ivory Coast with three and Tunisia and Mozambique with one each.

Wednesday's final round of matches sees Mozambique playing already qualified Ghana and Tunisia meeting Ivory Coast.

Ivory Coast's goal last Sunday came after a goalmouth scramble which drew Mozambique goalkeeper Rui Alves off his line. A speculative ball across the area from Tchiressoa Guel found Tiehi unmarked six metres out and he made no mistake.

Mozambique's best chance had come nine minutes earlier after a fine run from right back Fafe who crossed perfectly for Chiquinho's. He was denied a goal from a diving header by the crossbar.

In the second half Jojo's run into the box was ended by a trip, but Mozambique's claims for a penalty fell on the deaf ears of referee Gamal Ghandour from Egypt.

Ivory Coast hit the bar when Guel unleashed a thunderous shot in the 63rd minute which had Alves comprehensively beaten.

Alves kept his side's hopes alive with two saves from Tiehi in the 40th minute. The second was a brilliant reflex effort at point blank range.

Guel had a chance to make the game safe in the 79th minute when he collected a clever through ball from Badra Aliou Siby inside the box, but Alves was on hand again with a fine save. Mozambique now faces the unenviable task of beating tournament favourite Ghana in order to stay in the competition.

### Egypt to fast before game with South Africa

Egypt's footballers are hoping for God's blessings as they enter a vital match in the African Nations Cup without eating or drinking, except for a few drops of water on the lips, for the Islamic month of fasting.

"The team will fast for Ramadan. They always fast no matter how important the match is," Wabid Samir, spokesman for the Egyptian Football Federation, told Agence France-Presse on the weekend.

"It's an act of faith, and also it brings a little blessing from God for their good intentions," Samir said.

During the lunar month of Ramadan, which began in Egypt last Saturday, Muslims refrain from food, drink, cigarettes and sexual relations from sunrise to sunset.

Although the faithful are excused from the fast if they are travelling or face hard labour, the players have insisted on tradition even for a tough match-up with South Africa tomorrow (Wednesday) in Johannesburg.

"They will not eat or drink for the match with South Africa, which takes place before sundown — except they can moisten their lips with water," Samir said.

The match with South Africa, the division leader, is Egypt's last chance to enter the quarter finals in the tournament after losing to Cameroon last week.

"It will be a difficult match all around. The weather is hot in Johannesburg, so it will be hard," Samir said.

The players also faced the question of when exactly to start the fast, which by Islamic practice begins with the sighting of the new moon, the daily Al-Akhbar said.

**PAGE 25 — MATCH REPORTS,  
RESULTS AND TABLES.**

## Villa overcome Spurs

A superbly-struck angled shot by Dwight Yorke 11 minutes from time gave Aston Villa a 2-1 win over Tottenham in a pulsating English Premier League match last Sunday.

The victory lifted Villa from ninth to fifth and denied the visitor the chance to move into second place behind Newcastle.

Villa, who had not lost to Spurs in the clubs' 13 previous meetings, went ahead after 23 minutes when former Irish international centre-back Paul McGrath

got on the end of a loose ball in the Spurs box to lash home an unstoppable shot past goalkeeper Ian Walker.

It was his first goal for Villa for two years, but three minutes later the ball took a deflection off his leg from a Ruel Fox shot to give Spurs their equaliser.

Both sides attacked throughout an entertaining match to which Tottenham brought an impressive record of just two defeats in their last 20 league games, while Villa was protecting the best defensive record

in the league, having conceded just 15 goals in 22 games.

Villa largely dominated the second half, although the game seemed destined to end in a draw until Yorke's winning goal, his 11th of the season.

Spurs almost equalised in the last minute when Sol Campbell headed narrowly over the bar.

Newcastle, who beat Bolton 2-1 on Saturday, leads the standings with 54 points, followed by Liverpool and Manchester United on 42 and Spurs on 41. Villa is on 39.

## USA take third spot

The United States, led by a goal from all-time American top scorer Eric Wynalda, beat Guatemala 3-0 last Sunday to take third place in the CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament in Los Angeles.

Mexico beat Brazil 2-1 in the Final — see next week's edition for match report.

Brazil fielded an Under 23 side and were a specially invited guest. Brazil is a member of the South American confederation.

With rain pouring down on a sell-out crowd of more than 80,000, passing was made difficult by huge puddles on the field and skilful play was almost impossible.

It was not until three minutes from the end that the Americans could breathe easily, when Manchester United's Jovan Kirovski coolly sidefooted home after running onto a Claudio Reyna pass that split the defence.

The Americans survived

two scares in the first half, when Guatemalan striker Edwin Westphal was allowed a free header in the area and goalkeeper Kasey Keller acrobatically tipped it over in the 16th minute.

Then in the 24th minute, Juan Carlos Plata broke down the left and his low cross was met by a stretching Jorge Rodas, but the ball rolled just wide, with Keller beaten.

The US stormed back in the driving rain and first Wynalda scored with a downward header from a Reyna cross in the 34th minute. The goal was his 22nd and gave Wynalda the all-time record for goals for the US national team.

Then, three minutes later, Cobi Jones broke on the right, his cross was back-heeled out by a defender and defender Jeff Agoos was on the spot to power home from 20 metres.

**PAGE 25: GOLD CUP  
SEMI-FINAL MATCH  
REPORTS**



Cobi Jones: Played part in America's third goal.



# USA Player of the Year - Alexi (Hairy) Lalas

Alexi Lalas, the first American player ever to play in Italy's Serie A, was named US Player of the Year for 1995 last week.

Lalas received one-third of the first-place votes in balloting of 160 sports journalists nationwide. He won by the widest margin in the five-year history of the award.

Lalas, who was one of only five US players to play every minute of every US game in the 1994 World Cup, is in his second season with Padova in the Italian league.

In his first season there he scored against powerhouses AC Milan and Inter to help Padova escape relegation.

After the current Italian season ends, Lalas will return to the United States to play for New England Revolution in the brand new Major League Soccer.

Lalas said he was delighted to win the award after finishing runner-up to Marcelo Balboa in 1994.

More importantly, he said, he was pleased that since the United States hosted the World Cup in 1994 the profile of the game had continued to



Alexi Lalas: Delighted to win award in his second year with Padova.

rise. "I know some people think I'm up here because of hair or guitar," said Lalas, who is as well known in some quarters for his distinctive red mane and rock band as for his football.

"But that's OK. A lot of guys here know that a few years ago if all of us had walked on the field naked there wouldn't have been anybody there to write about it or comment on it or analyse it."

Lalas said he was looking forward to the launch of the 10-team MLS, which is set to kick

off in April.

"I'm very excited about the future," he said.

John Harkes of English Premiership club West Ham United was second in the voting and Balboa, who plays for Mexican first division club Leon, was third.

## Spurs sign Sinton from Wednesday

Tottenham manager Gerry Francis renewed his partnership with Andy Sinton last Friday, when he signed the ex-England winger for \$A3.10 million from Sheffield Wednesday.

Sinton, 29, who played under Francis at Queens Park Rangers, has signed a three-and-a-half-year contract.

Wednesday manager David Pleat said: "The money will be used to strengthen our squad. It might be a player similar to Andy, but perhaps more of a utility player."

"It's been a difficult one for us. I'd have loved to encourage wing play, but because we haven't played a system with wingers regularly and because Andy has had a series of injury niggles, he has never been able to hold a regular place."

## No promotion - ticket refund

A Spanish club plans to give season-ticket holders a refund if it fails to win promotion to the First Division.

Under the scheme, Mallorca fans who bought tickets for the rest of the season before Sunday will automatically have the price they pay deducted from next year's season tickets if their team stays in the Second Division.

The tickets cost between \$98 and \$196.

"The promotion is unprecedented in Spanish football," said Mallorca president Juan Lacueva.

Mallorca are currently seven points away from a promotion place.

## TYNESIDE TO MERSEYSIDE

Swiss World Cup defender Marc Hottiger last Friday switched from one English club to another, transferring from Newcastle to Everton for \$A1.4 million.

The 28-year-old right-side defender has started only one game this season for the league-leading Magpies after the arrival of England international Warren Barton from Wimbledon.

## Referee admits mistake

David Ginola's booking at Arsenal on January 13 has been wiped from his disciplinary record after the referee admitted he made a mistake.

But the red card for Newcastle's French winger in the same League Cup quarter-final stands. Referee Gerald Ashby contacted the English Football Association to clear the Newcastle winger after watching the incident on video, FA spokeswoman Claire Tomlinson said.

Ashby cautioned the French international in the first half of the quarter-final match for "diving" when he toppled under a challenge from Arsenal defender Nigel Winterburn.

Tomlinson said: "David Ginola's caution at Arsenal has been withdrawn from his record as a result of Gerald Ashby's honest and unsolicited reappraisal of an incident he has since viewed on video. We agree with him that the caution was not appropriate."

# Croatian Corner

BY JOHN VISKOVICH

## MLADENOVIC IN JAPAN

Croatian International midfielder Mladen Mladenovic has left Austrian Champions Casino Salzburg and has joined glamour Japanese side Gamba Osaka.

Gamba is a Japanese team which is coached by former Sydney Croatia and Dinamo Zagreb coach Josip Kuze.

The Japanese team also has former Dinamo Zagreb star Vjekoslav Skrinjar on its playing staff.

Mladenovic was originally set to sign for NK Croatia Zagreb but didn't when the Japanese offered him twice as much money and a three year contract.

He is 29 so the bigger money offer was very attractive.

Those who haven't seen Mladenovic in action will get a good chance to do so at Euro 96 as he is a regular for the Croatia team.

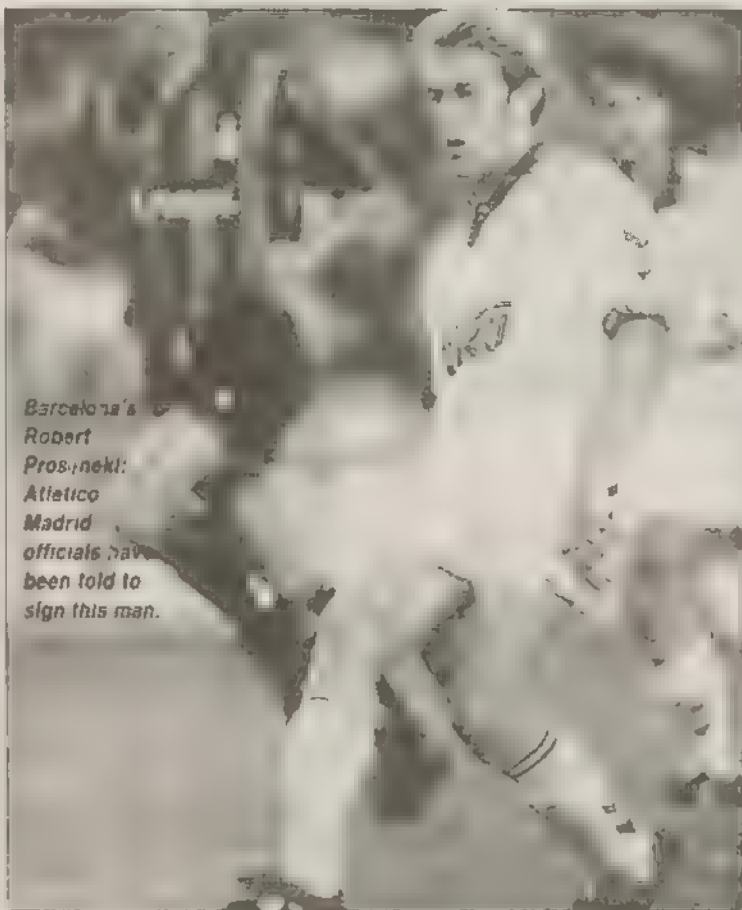
## WEST HAM SIGN BILIC

Slaven Bilic has signed for English Premier League team West Ham, joining them from German side Karlsruhe.

The Croatian International is the latest star recruit for West Ham who have also signed Barcelona's Russian player Kornejev.

West Ham now have realistic ambitions to stay in the Premier League.

Sady Aussie Stan Lazaridis was sent packing on loan to a First Division club due to his poor performances but Socceroo star Robbie Slater is still holding his own at the club.



Barcelona's Robert Prosinecki: Atletico Madrid officials have been told to sign this man.

## REAL RENEW INTEREST IN BJELICA

Nenad Bjelica of Spanish outfit Albacete has again been contacted by Real Madrid to sign a contract with

the Spanish giants. The youngster is still not sure what to do as Real Madrid already have too many foreign players and his opportunity to play first team football would be limited.

Will Bjelica sign now that another Croatian Devor Suker could be on his way. Everyone is eagerly awaiting for Bjelica to respond.

## VASTIC THE BEST IN AUSTRIA 1995

Ivica Vastic of Strum Gras has been voted the best player in Austria for the year 1995.

Vastic is in good form yet remains uncapped by Croatia.

He has said no to playing for Austria and has said "all I can do is keep playing well, and hope I get picked for Croatia."

"It would be a dream to play for Croatia in England."

## ATLETICO WANT PROSINECKI

Atletico Madrid coach Radomir Antic has asked club officials to find a way to sign Barcelona's Croatian midfielder Robert Prosinecki.

It seems Antic can't coach without the Croatian in his side.

In 1991 when Antic was in charge of Real Madrid he demanded club officials sign Prosinecki from Red Star.

He did the same in 1995 while in charge of Real Oviedo when he got his man again on loan from Real Madrid.

Antic's attempt to sign Prosinecki at the start of the season backfired with the midfielder choosing to go to Barcelona.

Now Antic's Atletico Madrid who sit on top of the table is asking for Prosinecki to reconsider, and knowing that Barcelona are in trouble — Prosinecki just might take Antic up on his offer.

Antic said this on why he wants Prosinecki: "He has all of what makes a great footballer and I need him to make my teams great."

## IN BRIEF...

In a recent tournament for Indoor Soccer held in Germany E. Frankfurt were the winners with the best player award given to Croatia U/21 International Ivica Mornar. During the break in the leagues all the clubs play indoor soccer.

Aljosa Asanovic has said "its now a 99% chance that I'll go back to Hajduk and the Poljud Stadium."

Ante Mice of Vitesse Arnhem (Holland) is still battling injury and could be missing Euro 96 as a result.

17-year-old Kresimir Drasin has played two matches for Club Brugge he is not regarded as a foreigner because he is under 18 years of age.

17-year-old Darko Peric is yet to play for Bayern Munich due to too many foreign stars. He does however play in the reserves.

17-year-old Igor Jovicevic of Real Madrid is not in the first team and is looking for a loan move to Albacete also in Spain.

18-year-old Saric who plays for Barcelona B could be on loan at Croatia Zagreb in the not too distant future.

AC Milan like Croatia Zagreb's Darlo Simic who is only 20 years of age. The Zagreb team doesn't want to release him if he is going to sit in the stands and not play. So it's "hands off" to AC Milan.

The 21 year old Goran Vlaovic of Italian club Padova has been linked up with Inter Milan for a possible move. Padova say "to lose Vlaovic is to lose all hope of staying in the Serie A."

The 20 year old Torino striker Veldan Karic is yet to score for the club but club officials are happy with him as he is playing well.



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE GL BE

## DAVOR SUKER MOVES ON TO REAL MADRID

Croatian striker Davor Suker signed for Real Madrid last week in a deal worth \$A6.74 million and the transfer or loan of five Real players to Sevilla, Suker's former club.

Of the players going to Sevilla only Serbian utility player Dejan Petkovic, who arrived in Spain last month, has appeared for Real in the Spanish First Division.

In an unusually complicated deal, Sevilla have decided to wait until the end of the season to choose the fifth player.

A left-sided forward who is especially dangerous at set-pieces, Suker's goals at international level have played a major part in Croatia's rapid emergence as a power in the soccer world.

Real president Lorenzo Sanz said that the arrival of Suker did not necessarily mean that Chilean forward Ivan Zamorano would leave the club.

Zamorano has so far been unable to reach agreement with Real on extending his contract, which expires in June.

## ANOTHER DRUGS BAN IN FRANCE

French international goalkeeper Fabien Barthez was banned for two months for using drugs by the French football federation's disciplinary committee.

The Monaco player's lawyer Jean-Jacques Bertrand said he would not appeal.

Barthez, who won the 1993 European Cup with Olympique

Marseille, tested positive for cannabis after a league match against Nantes in October.

He was the fifth French player to be found guilty of drug use this season.

"He recognises he was stupid and accepts the punishment," Bertrand said.

Barthez will be eligible again from March 16.

## UNWELCOME SCHUSTER WINS CASE

German club Bayer Leverkusen has been ordered by a German court to allow former international Bernd Schuster to train at the club's ground.

The court order was the latest twist in a long-running dispute between the 36-year-old midfielder and the Bundesliga club.

In November, Leverkusen told Schuster his playing days with it were over following bust-ups with coach Erich Ribbeck and other club officials.

But the court in Opladen issued a preliminary injunction ordering the club to afford Schuster training facilities.

"We accept the ruling but we will not welcome Bernd Schuster," said club spokesman Uli Dost.

Schuster, whose career has been dogged by controversy and scandals, has a contract that runs until June 1997.

## BULGARIA SEEKING OPPONENTS

Bulgaria will need two more rivals to complete a four-game schedule of warm-ups for the European championship finals, the Bulgarian Football Union today said.



Bernd Schuster: Controversy and scandals dogged his career.

The World Cup semi-finalists will meet Euro '96 host England at Wembley on March 27 and Macedonia on June 2. It is looking for opponents for two more games planned

for May 29 and April 21.

National team coach Dimitar Penev hopes to use his foreign based players in the friendlies if their clubs release them.

## OUT FOR EIGHTY YEARS

A Spanish coach was sentenced to 33 years in jail last Thursday for sexually abusing the boys in his club's junior team.

Jesus de las Heras was found guilty of abuse of eight minors in the changing rooms and showers of first division Rayo Vallecano and while on tour with the team between 1991 and 1993.

The court also found that the former coach had abused the boys in cinemas and on visits to their homes, and had threatened those that objected with expulsion from the team.

De las Heras must pay his victims' families \$A48,850 in compensation and a fine of \$A27,140.

Rayo Vallecano will have to pay the fines and compensation because of the bankruptcy of their former employee.

De las Heras was also banned from coaching for 80 years.

## INCE BACK TO BEST FOR INTER

Internazionale midfielder Paul Ince, recalled to the England squad after a long absence while he came to terms with Italian soccer, said his problems were over and he was back to his best. "It's been a while since I played for the national team and it's been weighing on me," he told the daily La Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper.

"The first three months here were very difficult but now I'm back to my best, like I was at Manchester United."

The 28-year-old

midfielder joined Inter from United in the off season but was soon widely criticised in the Italian sports media for his poor performances as the side slumped.

## MALARIA STRIKES PLAYER

Dutch First Division side Go Ahead Eagles said last week their latest signing, Nigerian defender Kingsley Obiekulu, had contracted malaria.

Obiekulu, who had to wait three months for a work permit in the Netherlands, caught the fever during a short Christmas holiday in Nigeria. He admitted that he had forgotten to take the recommended malaria tablets.

The Nigerian, who has made only three brief appearances for the club, all as substitute, is being treated in Deventer hospital. It is not clear when he will be fit to play again.

Go Ahead Eagles are bottom of the Dutch First Division.

## UNITED BID FOR CITY'S TONY COTON

Manchester United offered bitter rival Manchester City's goalkeeper Tony Coton the chance to reboot his career with a move across town to Old Trafford.

United manager Alex Ferguson confirmed that he is ready to match the \$A1.03 million offered by First Division Sunderland earlier last week for the keeper who has lost his regular first team place at Maine Road.

Ferguson, who sees Coton as the perfect back-up for Peter Schmeichel, says: "We made an inquiry after reading that the Sunderland deal had fallen through but so far we have not had any response."

"Tony is a player of tremendous experience and we will have to see what happens," he added.

## PLATT'S KNEE SURGERY

Arsenal's England captain David Platt returned to hospital last Thursday for another knee operation — leaving Highbury manager Bruce Rioch with major selection problems.

Still reeling from his side's shock FA Cup third round replay exit at first division Sheffield United last Wednesday, Rioch must now wait to discover how long Platt will be out of action after his latest surgery.

Platt missed nine games earlier this season when undergoing repairs to a cartilage torn in two places.

## SUPER CUP REFEREES NOMINATED

French referee Remi Harrel and Scotland's Leslie Mottram will take charge of the European Super Cup competition between Champions League title holders Ajax Amsterdam and Cup Winners Cup holder Real Zaragoza.

Harrel will referee the first leg in Zaragoza on February 6 and Mottram will be in charge of the second in Amsterdam two weeks later.

# Cantona & Ginola out

French national trainer Aimé Jacquet has made it clear he is preparing for June's European Championship finals in England without his exiled English premier league players Eric Cantona and David Ginola.

Jacquet left both out of his 17-man squad to face Portugal in Paris tomorrow (Wednesday), the first of six friendlies for France leading up to the finals, and gave no indication that either was likely to win back his place.

The trainer said Cantona had been supplanted by younger players who had staked places during his eight-month suspension last year for kicking an English

But he had harsh words for Ginola, accusing him of

an attitude problem.

"His behaviour is difficult to understand," Jacquet said. "He's a player of moods. I don't want that. I've always said I don't want moody players. If he comes, it's without dictating what happens. Then we'll see."

Jacquet went on to say he had little contact with Ginola and had not spoken to him on the phone for eight months.

The trainer's antipathy to Ginola, who is having a brilliant season with English leader Newcastle United, was sparked when the player said he would not go to September's qualifier against Azerbaijan unless he played from the start.

Jacquet immediately put him on the bench for that match, using him only as a



late substitute, and Ginola has not played for France since.

Cantona was appointed captain by Jacquet until the Manchester United player blotted his copybook with his kung-fu assault. He has not played for France in a year and his future in the national colours looks bleak.

"Why should I bring back Cantona when two young players of quality have so brilliantly taken part in our

qualification?" Jacquet said.

"Putting them aside now would be absurd. They are the players in a strong position."

He was clearly referring to Paris St Germain's Youri Djorkaeff, like Cantona a player who is happy in either a striking or attacking midfield role, and Bordeaux playmaker Zinedine Zidane, both excellent all year for France.

Jacquet called up uncapped Auxerre midfielder Sabri Lamouchi, a player of Tunisian origin who last year rejected the chance to play for Tunisia so he could one day appear for France.

But he left out experienced Auxerre sweeper Laurent Blanc and was also forced to do

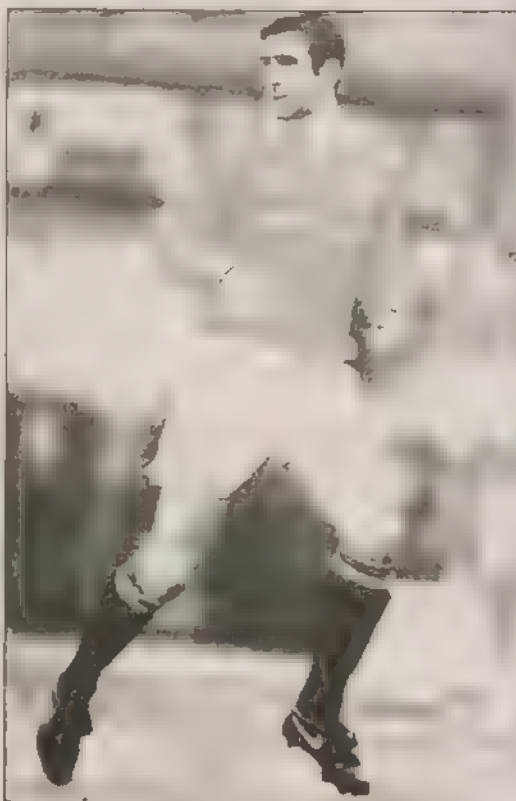
without his regular reserve goalkeeper Fabien Barthez of Monaco, suspended for two months.

**Goalkeepers** - Bernard Lama (Paris St Germain), Bruno Martini (Montpellier)

**Defenders** - Jocelyn Angloma (Torino), Marcel Desailly (AC Milan), Eric Di Meco (Monaco), Franck Leboeuf (Strasbourg), Lilian Thuram (Monaco)

**Midfielders** - Didier Deschamps (Juventus), Jean-Michel Ferri (Nantes), Vincent Querin (Paris St Germain), Christian Karembeu (Sampdoria), Sabri Lamouchi (Auxerre)

**Forwards** - Youri Djorkaeff (Paris St Germain), Patrice Loko (Paris St Germain), Nicolas Ouedec (Nantes), Reynald Pedros (Nantes), Zinedine Zidane (Bordeaux).



Eric Cantona: Supplanted by younger players.



# WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

## ENGLISH F.A. CUP THIRD ROUND

— January 16 —

Blackburn 0 Ipswich 1 (Mason 115th) after extra time. 90 minutes 0-0. Attendance: 19,606  
Oxford 1 (Massey 55th) Millwall 0. 0-0. 8,035  
Port Vale 4 (Walker 18th, Porter 28th pen, Foyle 60th, Mills 111th) Crystal Palace 3 (Taylor 30th, Cox 76th, Dyer 83rd). After extra time, halftime 2-1; 90 minutes 3-3. Attendance: 6,754  
Shrewsbury 2 (Anthrobus 49th, Dempsey 87th) Fulham 1 (Hamill 29th) 0-1. 7,983  
Sunderland 1 (P. Gray 24th) Manchester United 2 (Scholes 70th, Cole 90th). 1-0. 21,378  
Oldham v Barnsley - postponed

### REPLAYS

Manchester City 5 (Rosler 10th minute, Kinkladze 18th, Quinn 51st, Lomas 54th, Creaney 80th) Leicester 0. Halftime 2-0. Attendance: 19,980  
Newcastle 2 (Albert 41st, Beardsley 63rd penalty) Chelsea 2 (Wise 61st penalty, Gullit 88th). 1-0. After extra time. Score at 90 minutes 2-2. Chelsea won 4-2 on penalties. 36,535  
Nottingham Forest 2 (Campbell 16th, Pearce 54th penalty) Stoke 0. 1-0. 17,372  
Sheffield United 1 (Veart 68th) Arsenal 0. 0-0. 22,255  
Stockport 2 (Bound 22nd, Armstrong 88th) Everton 3 (Ferguson 71st, Stuart 73rd, Ebbrell 89th). 1-0. 11,283  
Tottenham 5 (Sheringham 23rd, 55th, 81st, Armstrong 30th, 59th) Hereford 1 (Stoker 90th). 2-0. 31,534  
Wimbledon 1 (Clarke 78th) Watford 0. 0-0. 5,142  
Wolverhampton 2 (Ferguson 17th, Bull 62nd) Birmingham 1 (Hunt 50th). 1-0. 28,088.

## FA CUP ROUND 4 DRAW

Saturday, January 27:

Shrewsbury v Liverpool  
Charlton v Brentford  
Ipswich v Walsall  
Bolton v Leeds  
Huddersfield v Peterborough  
Coventry v Manchester City  
Middlesbrough v Wimbledon  
Reading v Manchester United  
Nottingham Forest v Oxford  
Southampton v Crewe  
Swindon v Barnsley or Oldham  
Everton v Port Vale  
West Ham v Grimsby  
Tottenham v Wolverhampton  
Sunday, January 28:  
Sheffield United v Aston Villa  
Monday, January 29:  
Queens Park Rangers v Chelsea.

## ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 1 (Wright 38th minute) Everton 2 (Stuart 50th, Kanchelskis 84th). Halftime 1-0. Attendance: 38,275  
Blackburn 3 (Shearer 28th, Böhnen 31st, Gallacher 85th) Sheffield Wednesday 0. 2-0. 24,732  
Chelsea 1 (Spencer 55th) Nottingham Forest 0. 0-0. 24,482  
Liverpool 5 (Ruddock 27th, 90th, Fowler penalty 62nd, 68th, Collymore 89th) Leeds 0. 1-0. 40,254  
Manchester City 1 (Rosler 55th) Coventry 1 (Dublin 66th). 0-0. 25,710  
Newcastle 2 (Kitson 9th, Beardsley 37th) Bolton 1 (Bergsson 19th) 36,543  
Southampton 2 (Shipperley 64th, Hall 71st) Middlesbrough 1 (Barnby 44th). 0-1. 15,151  
Wimbledon 2 (Leonhardsen 40th, Clarke 74th) Queens Park Rangers 1 (Hateley 57th). 1-0. 9,123.  
Aston Villa 2 (McGrath 23rd minute, Yorke 79th) Tottenham 1 (Fox 26th). Halftime 1-1. Attendance: 35,666.  
Playing Monday:  
West Ham v Manchester Utd

## ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Barnsley.....1	Crystal Palace.....1
Charlton.....4	West Bromwich.....1
Grimsby.....1	Millwall.....2
Huddersfield.....0	Oldham.....0
Ipswich.....2	Birmingham.....0
Norwich.....0	Luton.....1
Port Vale.....1	Derby.....1
Reading.....1	Stoke.....0
Sheffield Utd.....1	Watford.....1
Southend.....2	Portsmouth.....1
Wolverhampton.....2	Tranmere.....1
Leicester.....0	Sunderland.....0

## ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Blackpool.....3	Bristol City.....x
Bournemouth.....3	Bradford.....1
Brentford.....2	York.....0
Brighton.....1	Peterborough.....2
Bristol Rovers.....1	Carlisle.....1
Chesterfield.....1	Oxford Utd.....0
Crewe.....2	Wycombe.....0
Notts County.....1	Wrexham.....0
Rotherham.....1	Burnley.....0
Shrewsbury.....1	Swansea.....2
Stockport.....0	Walsall.....1
Swindon.....3	Hull.....0

## ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Barnet.....1	Hereford.....3
Bury.....0	Northampton.....1
Cambridge Utd.....1	Scunthorpe.....2
Cardiff.....1	Rochdale.....0
Darlington.....1	Exeter.....0
Hartlepool.....2	Chester.....1
Lincoln.....0	Preston.....0
Mansfield.....1	Fulham.....0
Plymouth.....1	Colchester.....1
Scarborough.....0	Doncaster.....2
Torquay.....2	Leyton Orient.....1
Wigan.....2	Grillingham.....1

Pools Panel assessed result:

West Ham v Manchester Utd - away win

## SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Aberdeen.....1	Partick.....0
Hibernian.....0	Motherwell.....0
Kilmarnock.....0	Celtic.....0
Raith.....1	Falkirk.....0
Rangers.....0	Hearts.....3

## SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Clydebank.....0	Greenock Morton.....1
Dumbarton.....1	Dundee Utd.....3
Dundee.....1	St Mirren.....2
Hamilton.....0	Dunfermline.....0
St Johnstone.....0	Airdrieonians.....0

## SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Berwick.....1	East Fife.....2
Clyde.....2	Stranraer.....2
Forfar.....1	Stirling.....4
Queen of South.....2	Ayr.....2
Stenhousemuir.....3	Montrose.....1

## SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Brechin.....1	Albion.....0
Cowdenbeath.....1	Arbroath.....2
East Stirling.....1	Caledonian Thistle.....5
Queen's Park.....0	Alloa.....0
Ross County.....0	Livingston.....1

(match abandoned due to power failure).

## NORTHERN IRELAND CUP FIFTH ROUND

— January 20 —

Ards.....10	Crookstown.....1
Armagh City.....2	Dundela.....1
Chimney Corner.....0	Ballymena.....1
Crusaders.....4	Dungiven.....0
Distillery.....4	Larne Tech OB.....2
Dungannon Swifts.....2	Omagh Town.....4
East Belfast.....4	Malachians.....1
Glenavon.....12	First Liverpool.....0
Glenoran.....4	Limavady.....1
Kilmore.....0	Cliftonville.....3
Larne.....3	Banbridge.....0
Newry.....2	Coleraine.....1
RUC.....2	Carrick.....3
Tobermore.....2	Ballyclare.....3

## CYPRUS FIRST DIVISION

— January 15 —

Apollon.....2	Ak.....1
Aek.....3	Omonia.....0
Anorthosis.....5	Paralimni.....0

Aradippou.....1	Apollon.....2
Ans.....2	AEL.....1
Olympiakos.....1	Evaghoras.....0
Salamina.....0	Ethnikos.....1

## TABLE

APOEL Nicosia	13	10	3	0	23	11	33
Aek Lamaca	13	9	1	3	24	12	28
Omonia Nicosia	13	8	3	2	29	15	27
Anorthosis	13	6	5	2	26	14	23
Apollon Limassol	13	6	5	2	19	10	23
Alki Lamaca	13	5	4	4	24	23	19
Paralimni	13	5	4	4	20	18	19
Ethnikos Ahna	13	4	5	4	17	18	17
Aris Limassol	13	3	7	3	15	13	16
AEL Limassol	13	4	2	7	18	24	14
Salamina	13	3	2	8	14	26	12
Olympiakos Nicosia	13	2	3	8	7	17	9
Evaghoras Paphos	13	1	4	8	10	26	7
Omonia Aradippou	13	0	2	11	12	39	2

## FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

— January 20 —

Lens.....0	Nice.....0
Strasbourg.....1	Metz.....2
Cannes.....0	Auxerre.....1
Monaco.....2	Bordeaux.....0
Nantes.....1	Lille.....2
Queugnon.....1	Basha.....0
Quingamp.....3	Saint-Etienne.....0
Lyon.....2	Rennes.....2
Montpellier.....2	Martiques.....0
Le Havre.....1	Paris SG.....1

## TABLE

Paris St Germain	24	13	9	2	46	19	48
Metz	24	12	8	4	24	16	44
Auxerre	24	13	3	8	40	23	42
Lens	24	10	12	2	26	14	42
Monaco	24	11	6	7	37	27	39
Quingamp	24	9	9	6	20	17	36
Nantes	24	9	9	6	27	25	36
Bastia	24	10	5	9	33	30	35
Montpellier	24	9	7	8	32	29	34
Strasbourg	24	8	9	7	32	24	33
Rennes	24	8	9	7	27	28	33
Nice	24	9	5	10	26	26	32
Le Havre	24	7	7	10	21	31	28
Lyon	24	5	12	7	25	28	27
St Etienne	24	5	10	9	27	38	25
Bordeaux	24	7	4	13	24	34	25
Cannes	24	6	5	13	26	37	23
Lille	24	5	8	11	18	32	23
Queugnon	24	4	10	10	16	29	22
Martiques	24	5	3	16	18	38	18

## SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

Real Madrid.....1	Rayo Vallecano.....2
Barcelona.....1	Valladolid.....0
Compostela.....1	Celta Vigo.....1
Real Betis.....0	Menda.....1
Real Oviedo.....1	Zaragoza.....1
Salamanca.....2	Espanyol.....2
Albacete.....1	Sporting.....3
Racing Santander.....1	Athletic Bilbao.....1
Real Sociedad.....1	Atletico Madrid.....0
Tenente.....4	Sevilla.....2
Valencia.....2	Deportivo Coruna.....1

## TABLE

Atletico Madrid	22	15	4	3	39	11	49
Compostela	22	13	4	5	30	23	43
Barcelona	22	12	6	4	41	19	42
Espanyol	22	12	6	4	33	17	42
Valencia	22	12	3	7	36	27	39
Tenerife	22	9	8	5	39	33	35
Real Betis	22	8	10	4	31	24	34
Real Madrid	22	9	6	7	38	31	33
Deportivo Coruna	22	9	5	8	35	20	32
Athletic Bilbao	22	7	8	7	26	26	29
Real Sociedad	22	8	5	9	29	31	29
Celta Vigo	22	7	7	8	21	24	28
Sporting Gijon	22	8	2	12	29	31	26
Zaragoza	22	6	8	8	21	28	26
Oviedo	22	5	8	9	22	32	23
Rayo Vallecano	22	6	5	11	25	39	23
Salamanca	22	5	7	10	33	37	22
Merida	22	4	10	8	18	28	22
Sevilla	22	5	7	10	22	36	22
Racing	22	5	7	10	24	40	22
Albacete	22	5	6	11	33	46	21
Valladolid	22	2	8	12	24	40	14

## PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

— January 21 —

Fekueiras.....0	Maritimo.....3
Uniao Leiria.....3	Salgueiros.....2
Campomaiorense.....2	Estrela Amadora.....1
Braga.....1	Belenenses.....1
Leca.....4	Chaves.....1
Boavista.....2	Sporting.....1
Benfica.....2	Tirsense.....1
Porto.....2	Gil Vicente.....0

## TABLE

Porto	19	1	3	0	50	3	51
Boavista	19	12	4	3	35	15	40
Sporting	19	12	4	3	41	16	40
Benfica	19	12	4	3	32	9	40
Maritimo	19	10	3	6	31	21	33
Belenenses	19	7	6	6	26	18	27
Salgueiros	19	5	11	3	23	21	26
Guimaraes	18	7	4	7	23	20	25
Braga	19	6	6	7	22	26	24
Uniao Leiria	19	7	2	10	21	36	23
Fekueiras	19	5	7	7	20	23	22
Amadora	19	5	6	8	20	30	21
Leca	19	5	4	10	17	29	19
Gil Vicente	19	4	6	9	16	27	18
Tirsense	19	3	6	10	15	34	15
Chaves	19	3	6	10	21	34	15
Farense	18	4	2	12	13	25	14
Campomaiorense	19	4	2	13	14	43	14

## DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Aek.....2	Panionios.....0
Edessaikos.....1	Panathinaikos.....3
Ethnikos.....3	Ans.....1
Iraklis.....2	Paniliakos.....0
Ionikos.....0	Athinaikos.....1
OFI.....2	Apollon.....1
Xanthi.....1	Olympiakos.....2
Larissa.....2	PAOK.....0
Kalamata.....1	Panahalki.....0

## TABLE

Panathinaikos	17	14	2	1	58	10	44
Aek	17	14	1	2	45	12	43
Olympiakos	17	12	4	1	41	16	40
OFI	17	10	2	5	36	29	32
Iraklis	17	7	4	6	23	23	25
Paniliakos	17	6	5	6	25	24	23
Xanthi	17	6	4	7	21	24	22
Edessaikos	17	6	4	7	25	32	22
Kalamata	17	5	6	6	24	29	21
Athinaikos	17	6	2	9	15	24	20
Aris	17	5	5	7	20	22	20
Apollon	17	5	4	8	24	26	19
Ionikos	17	5	4	8	21	25	19
Panahalki	17	5	2	10	14	28	17
Panionios	17	4	4	9	20	27	16
PAOK	17	4	6	7	18	22	15
Larissa	17	4	2	11	14	34	14
Ethnikos	17	3	3	11	18	35	12

## DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Vitesse Arnhem.....2	RKC Waalwijk.....1
Twente Enschede.....0	Roda JC Kerkrade.....3
Volendam.....0	Feyenoord Rott.....3
Utrecht.....1	NEC Nijmegen.....2
Sparta Rotterdam.....3	Ajax Amsterdam.....3
Fortuna Sittard.....0	Willem II Tilburg.....0
NAC Breda.....1	Groningen.....1
Heerenveen.....1	PSV Eindhoven.....3
Fortuna Sittard.....0	Willem II Tilburg.....0

## TABLE

Ajax Amsterdam	20	17	2	1	65	10	53
PSV Eindhoven	20	16	2	2	68	13	50
Feyenoord Rotterdam	20	10	5	5	43	28	35
Willem II Tilburg	20	8	9	3	39	22	



# 1996 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

## GROUP A

### SOUTH AFRICA 1 ANGOLA 0

South Africa survived several anxious moments before beating Angola 1-0.

The victory was secured in the 57th minute by English-based striker Mark Williams.

Williams, who plays for Wolverhampton Wanderers in the English First Division, showed his predatory skills by seizing on a chance after Angolan goalkeeper Orlando had failed to hold a free kick by Eric Tinkler.

Williams was first to the rebound and blasted the ball into the net for his fourth goal in his last three international appearances.

But South African goalkeeper Andre Arendse emerged as the hero with two vital saves in the second half.

Shortly before the goal he blocked a powerful close-range shot from Angolan captain Tubia and then made an equally brilliant save from Joni in the final 10 minutes.

The persistent rain and strong physical play from Angola forced South Africa into several near-costly defensive errors.

It might have been a different story, however, had not Tinkler's rasping free-kick struck the Angolan woodwork as the home team sought the early momentum.

Leeds United striker Phil Masinga also hit the Angolan crossbar in the second half but South Africa was relieved to have taken all three points at the final whistle.

## GROUP B

### SIERRA LEONE 2 BURKINA FASO 1

The youngest player in the history of the African Nations Cup, Mohamed Kallon, hit a last-minute goal for Sierra Leone for a 2-1 win over Burkina Faso.

It was the first time Sierra Leone had won in the tournament and also the first time it had scored.

Swiss-based substitute Kallon, aged 16, was found free at the far post after good work by Lamine Conte and Amidu Karim.



Anthony Yeboah: Tunisia's man-marking effective.

He tapped the ball home for further celebrations after beating Nigerian Daniel Amokachi's record as the youngest player.

Gbessay Sesay opened the scoring in the 10th minute for Leone, but Aboubacary Ouedraogo equalised 20 minutes from time.

### ZAMBIA 5 BURKINA FASO 1

Zambia thrashed a 10-man Burkina Faso by 5 goals to 1.

Zambia, the 1994 runner-up, almost equalled Ivory Coast's 6-1 thrashing of Ethiopia in 1970 - the biggest winning margin and most goals scored by one side in the finals' history.

Zambia's Kenneth Malitoli opened the scoring, Kalusha Bwalya hit another two, Dennis Lota made it four in the 44th minute and Johnson Bwalya added a fifth in first-half injury time.

Meanwhile, Burkina Faso's Hassane Kamagate was sent off in the 32nd minute for striking Vincent Mutale in the face.

Burkina's Yssouf Traore pulled a goal back in the 52nd minute, two minutes after replacing Aboubacary Ouedraogo.

## GROUP C

### LIBERIA 2 GABON 1

George Weah, the world's leading player helped Liberia to a 2-1 win over Gabon.

Weah, recently voted European, African and World player of the year, was involved in the opening goal after only five minutes.

He was pulled down in the penalty area by Pierre Aubame and Kelvin Sebwe converted the spot kick.

Nine minutes into the second half some clever approach play on the edge of the Gabon penalty area made room for Joe Nagbe.

His square pass found Massa Sarr unmarked and he slotted home Liberia's from eight metres.

Guy-Roger Nzeng pulled one back for Gabon in the 59th minute with a superbly struck free kick but, despite playing the better football and creating more chances, the Gabonese were unable to find the target again.

### GABON 2 ZAIRE 0

Underdog Gabon scored its first win in the biennial tournament, upsetting two-time champion Zaire 2-0 with a penalty by Brice Mackaya and an insurance goal by Aurelian Bikogo-Zolo in the first half.

The Gabonese, outpaced the larger, favored Leopards, breaking up captain Jean-Claude Mukanya's drives and constantly counter attacking.

Zaire's goalkeeper Merikani Pangi brought down Guy Nzamba to stop one charge, forcing a 21st minute penalty that Vassas Hungary star Brice Mackaya slotted to the top right corner to put Gabon ahead 1-0.

The Zaireans turned on pressure but the Gabonese kept wrecking their attacks. Jean-Martin Mouloungui took a long clearance pass in the 34th minute

deep into the Zairean end, skirted two defenders and crossed to Bekogo-Folo for Gabon's second goal.

## GROUP D

### MOZAMBIQUE 1 TUNISIA 1

Mozambique produced a real surprise when it held Tunisia to a 1-1 draw.

Tico-Tico put them ahead in the fifth minute and Tunisia, ranked second to the Ivory Coast in Africa, equalised in the 36th minute when prolific scorer Hedi Ben Rekhis headed home.

Although Tunisia was the more polished in its build-up and created most opportunities, the Mozambique defence held firm in the latter stages, with goalkeeper Ru Evoro in particularly good form.

### GHANA 2 TUNISIA 1

Captain Abedi Pele and midfielder Charles Akonnor fired second half goals for Ghana in a dramatic 2-1 win over Tunisia.

Ghana overcame a sluggish, scoreless first half to show the flair that have made them Cup favourites.

Two minutes into the second half, Leeds United goal machine Tony Yeboah blasted a powerful shot from 10 metres that upended Tunisian goalkeeper Chokri el-Onaer, who was treated for a nose injury.

Two minutes later, Yeboah headed a cross to Pele. The Torino striker flicked the ball off his left foot for the game's first goal and then crashed into the hapless keeper.

Pele, the three-time African Footballer of the Year, left the field for a few minutes to recover. The hard play that followed led to a penalty for Yeboah after he was held.

Pele took the shot low to the right corner, but too slowly and was blocked.

Tunisia's Imed Ben Younes fared better at the 72nd minute on a short free kick, lifting the ball over the Ghanaian wall and under the crossbar to equalise.

But Akonnor scored the winner five minutes later, picking up a Pele pass that cleared three defenders.

## GROUP A

South Africa 3 (Phil Masinga 14, Mark Williams 3, John Moshoeu 55) beat Cameroon 0  
Attendance: 75,000

Egypt 2 (El Kass 30, 33) bt Angola 1 (Quinzinho 79)

Cameroon 2 (Francois Omam Biyik 36 pen, Alphonse Tchami 59) Egypt 1 (Aly Maher 48)  
Attendance: 4,000

South Africa 1 (Mark Williams 57) beat Angola 0  
Attendance: 30,000

	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
South Africa	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Egypt	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Cameroon	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

## GROUP B

Zambia 0 drew with Algeria 0

Attendance: 10,000

Sierra Leone 2 (Sesay 10, Mohamed Kal on 90) beat Burkina Faso 1 (Ouedraogo 70)

Algeria 2 (Ali Messabi 41, 63) beat Sierra Leone 0  
Attendance: 1,500

Zambia 5 (Kenneth Malitoli 18), Kalusha Bwalya 24, 33, Dennis Lota 44, Johnson Bwalya 45) beat Burkina Faso 1 (Yssouf Traore 53).  
Attendance: 2,000

	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Algeria	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Zambia	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Sierra Leone	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

## GROUP C

Liberia 2 (Sebwe 4 pen, Sarr 54) bt Gabon 1 (Nzeng 59)

Gabon 2 (Brice Mackay 21 pen, Aurelien Bikogo-Zolo 34) beat Zaire 0  
Attendance: 4,000

	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Gabon	2	1	0	0	2	1	3
Liberia	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

## GROUP D

Ghana 2 (Anthony Yeboah 20, Abedi Pele 70) beat Ivory Coast 0  
Attendance: 8,000

Ivory Coast 1 (Joel Tiehi 32), beat Mozambique 0 Crowd: 500

Tunisia 1 (Rekhis 35) drew with Mozambique 1 (Bucane 5)

Ghana 2 (Abedi Pele 50, Charles Akonnor 77) beat Tunisia 1 (Imed Ben Younes 72)  
Attendance: 1,000

	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Ghana	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Ivory Coast	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Mozambique	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

## Mexico into Final

Defending Gold Cup champions edged Guatemala 1-0 in a semi-final last Friday.

Cuauhtemoc Blanco scored in the second half to relieve the anxieties of a delirious pro-Mexican crowd of 42,221 and preserve the job of manager Bora Milutinovic for at least one more match.

Blanco, one of eight Olympic team players chosen by Milutinovic, ran onto Joaquin Del Olmo's throw-in to roll his shot past Guatemalan goalkeeper Edgar Estrada in the 64th minute for his first goal of the tournament.

Despite playing with three forwards with midfielders Ramon Ramirez, Joaquin Del Olmo and Alberto Garcia Aspe pushing forward, Mexico struggled to break down a six-man Guatemalan back line fortified with an effective offside trap.

Neither team generated a serious scoring chance for most of the first half, and when Mexico did break through, they found Estrada in sharp form.

Guatemala's best chance came 10 minutes after Blanco's goal. Mexican goalkeeper Jorge Campos bobbled Jorge Rodas's hard shot, but his defenders thwarted Edgar Valencia's follow-up attempt.

## USA GO CLOSE AGAINST BRAZIL

Brazil, shut down for much of the game by a tough American defence, beat the United States 1-0 thanks to an own-goal by Marcello Balboa last Friday in a semi-final.

For the Americans it was a disappointing result after they looked the better team for most of the game in which they had hoped to avenge two recent 1-0 defeats to Brazil.

Eric Wynalda, who needed one goal to become the all-time leading scorer for the US national team, missed a good chance just before half-time that would have given the Americans the upper-hand.

Brazil, the current world champion, had beaten the US in the second round of the World Cup in 1994 and in the semi-final of the Copa America last September.

This time, Brazil sent its Under-23 team and had played brilliant attacking soccer in first-round matches against Canada and Honduras.

But after pressing in the early stages against the United States full international team, the young Brazilian forwards Savio and Cao started to get frustrated and run out of ideas.

When they scored the winning goal in the 80th

minute, it came against the run of play. Savio broke down the left and with Alexi Laas challenging, he tried a low centre which deflected off the lunging Balboa and into the net past goalkeeper Kasey Keller.

UNITED STATES: Kasey Keller, Mike Burns, Marcello Balboa, Alexi Laas, Jeff Agoos (Roy Lassiter 84th minute), Thomas Dooley (Claudio Reyna 28th), John Harkes, Tab Ramos, Cobi Jones, Eric Wynalda, Joe-Max Moore.

BRAZIL: Dida Ze Maria, Narciso (Alexandre Lopes 90th), Carl nhos, Flavio Conceicao, Andre Luis, Amaral, Arilson, Cao, Savio, Jamelli.

## GROUP A

Guatemala bt St Vincent and the Grenadines 3-0 (halftime 3-0)

Scorers:

Guatemala - Juan Manuel Funes (28m), Edwin Westphal (42m), Martin Machon (45m)  
Attendance: 52,355 (Double Header)

## GROUP B

Brazil beat Honduras 5-0 (2-0 halftime)

Scorers:

Brazil - Caio (9th minute, 81st), Jamelli (31st, 61st), Savio (80th)  
Attendance: 20,708

## GROUP C

The United States beat El Salvador 2-0 (0-0 halftime)

Scorers:

United States - Eric Wynalda (64m), Marcello Balboa (75m)  
Attendance: 52 355 (Double Header)

## SEMI-FINALS

Brazil beat the United States 1-0 (0-0 halftime)

Scorers: Brazil - Savio (79th minute)

Attendance: 22,038

Mexico beat Guatemala 1-0 (halftime 0-0)

Scorer: Cuauhtemoc Blanco (64th Minute)

Attendance: 42,221

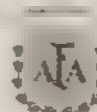
Mexico advances to Sunday's final against Brazil.





# SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



## BILARDO PREPARES

Carlos Salvador Bilardo, the former coach of the 1986 Argentine World Cup winning side, who took over the top coaching position of Boca Juniors after the departure of Silvio Marzolini has already in mind the team who will aim at winning the Argentine Soccer League in 1996.

Bilardo's only doubt is Caniggia who was supposed to return from Italy last week from his holidays to have talks with the coach.

But the striker cancelled his reservation with Alitalia and is still in Rome.

Mardona, who reached an agreement with the Boca club officials including Bilardo, will play a few friendly matches before the start of the official season. The squad for two tournaments to be



held simultaneously in Mendoza and Mar del Plata with the participation of Velez Sarsfield, San Lorenzo, Independiente, Racing and River Plate

will be the following:

Goalkeeper: Carlos Navarro Montoya.  
Defenders: Sonora, Gamboa, Fabbri and Mac Allister  
Midfielders: Peralta, Carrizo, Saldana and Pico  
Strikers: Sergio Martinez and Dario Scotti

Boca Juniors is interested in the services of Velez Sarsfield midfielder Jose Basualdo (left) but the Argentine champions asked for a transfer fee of \$2.5 million, a fee considered too high by Boca officials.

Alberto Marcico, Blas Giunta and Paraguayan midfielder Roberto Cabanas have been released by Boca Juniors.

Marcico could end up playing for Gimnasia y Esgrima of La Plata, the club guided by Marcico's former coach Carlos Griguol.

briefs... briefs... briefs... briefs...

→ Former star Brazilian international midfielder Socrates will coach Ecuadorian first division club Liga Universitaria of Quito. Socrates signed a contract for one year.

→ From January 24 to 31, the Chilean U/23 national team will participate in a four nations tournament, to be held in Santiago, against Ecuador, Denmark and Peru.

→ After almost 40 years Edson Arantes Do Nascimento discovered, thanks to Brazilian

linguistic expert Neil Lopes, the meaning of his nick-name. "Pele" means in an African dialect "fast".

→ Jorge Sotias, coach of Chilean champion, Universidad de Chile (UCH), abandoned the club's training camp upset with UCH officials who decided to sign Velez Sarsfield striker Fabian Fernandez. The coach will have further talks with the president before making a final decision about his future.

→ Luis Chabat, a striker from Uruguayan first division club Central Espanol will continue his career with Chilean club Cobrelao

→ Meanwhile another Uruguayan striker, Ruben Acosta, from Cerro of Montevideo, will travel to Chile to sign with Antofagasta.

→ Claudio Lopez, the brilliant attacking midfielder from Independiente of Argentina has been transferred to Spanish first division club Zaragoza.

→ Italian club Cagliari is putting pressure on Uruguayan striker Fabian O'Neill to stay with the struggling club instead of joining the Uruguayan U/23 team that will participate in the South American Olympic qualifiers, next month in Argentina.

→ Veteran Uruguayan striker Ruben Paz will play for Argentine second division club Godoy Cruz of Mendoza. The former international played until last December for Uruguayan club Frontera de Rivera.

→ Estudiantes de La Plata striker Jose Luis Calderon, the highest scorer in the last Argentine Soccer League could sign with Chilean champion Universidad de Chile. Estudiantes wants \$1.6 million while the Chileans offered \$1.3 million.



Socrates: Appointed coach of Ecuador club.

briefs... briefs... briefs... briefs...

## MARADONA TO ENTER POLITICS?

Soccer superstar Diego Maradona may try his hand at politics once his playing days are over.

"If the president asked me, I would consider becoming a politician with the sole objective of giving to sports something that it now lacks," he told the newspaper La Capital.

Meanwhile, Brazil's Flamengo wants to sign Diego Maradona.

"We will initiate negotiations with the owners of Maradona's contract," a Flamengo spokesman told a Buenos Aires radio station from Rio de Janeiro.

"If we succeed, Flamengo will have the two best players of the world in the past five years playing together," he said referring to Brazil's Romario.

## New coach for Uruguayan giants Penarol

Former Penarol goalkeeper and lately coach of first division club River Plate, Jorge Fossati, will replace Gregorio Perez at the helm of the most popular club in Uruguay.

Perez, who took Penarol to three consecutive Uruguayan championships, in 1993, 1994 and 1995, finally signed with Supercup champions Independiente of Argentina.

Fossati, after a meeting with Penarol's president Jose Pedro Damiani, agreed to coach his new club but asked for some reinforcements to build up a strong team able to perform well in the next Libertadores Cup and at domestic level.

The new manager is interested in defenders Fernando Picun from River Plate and Ruben De Los Santos from Defensor Sporting, striker Nestor Correa from Liverpool and midfielder Marcelo Tejera.

## SPANISH CUP

### Real's season floundering

Real Madrid was knocked out last Thursday when it could only manage a 2-1 win at home to Espanyol, who had taken the first leg 4-1.

The 17-times champion could hardly have started the game in a worse way when Espanyol's Jordi Lardin escaped an off-side trap to slip the ball past Real goalkeeper Paco Buyo with only nine minutes gone.

The pace of Lardin, who scored a hat-trick in the first leg, continued to give the Real defence problems throughout the game.

Real pulled one back midway through the second half when Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano outjumped the Espanyol defence at a corner to set up a simple chance for Raul Gonzalez to score.

Shortly afterwards Juan Eduardo Esneider's well-known bad temper got the better of him as the Argentine striker received his second yellow card for hacking down defender Branka Brnovic.

Michel Gonzalez, who came on as substitute at halftime after over a month out of the Real side, was brought down in the Espanyol area shortly before the

final whistle, and his kick from the spot did something to placate the fans at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

But the result leaves Real manager Jorge Valdano out of last Friday's quarter-final draw and in real trouble.

Valdano's side face a tough Champions' League tie against

Juventus and are six points away from a UEFA Cup place in the league.

Real is in danger of failing to qualify for Europe next season, a potentially disastrous situation for the six-times European Cup winner which is fighting to control a debt of around \$A135.69 million.

### SPANISH CUP FOURTH ROUND SECOND LEG

— January 16 —

(winners qualify for quarter-finals)

Real Betis .....	1	Atletico Madrid.....	2
(Atletico wins 3-2 on aggregate and qualifies for the quarter-finals)			
Zaragoza.....	0	Athletic Bilbao .....	1
(3-3 on agg., Zaragoza win on away goals)			
Sporting Gijon. ....	0	Numancia.....	0
(Numancia win 2-1 on aggregate)			
Compostela .....	0	Sevilla .....	1
(Sevilla win 3-1 on aggregate)			
Barcelona .....	4	Hercules .....	1
(Barcelona win 4-1 on aggregate)			
Valencia .....	3	Celta Vigo.....	0
(Valencia win 4-1 on aggregate)			
Tenerife.....	2	Deportivo Coruna .....	1
(Tenerife win 3-2 on aggregate)			
Real Madrid.....	2	Espanyol.....	1
(Espanyol win 5-3 on aggregate).			

### Referee has shocker

Atletico Madrid moved into the quarter-finals last week after scoring two early goals and surviving heavy second-half pressure to beat Real Betis 2-1.

The Spanish league leader, who took the tie 3-2 on aggregate, was aided by a series of apparent blunders by referee Jose Rubio, who should have sent off Atletico goalkeeper Jose Molina for deliberate handball outside the area when the game was only three minutes old.

Atletico took control of the first half, scoring through midfielder Delfi Geli in the 24th minute and adding another just a minute later when Bulgarian forward Lyuboslav

Penev finished off a fine move on the right by midfielder Jose Luis Caminero.

Betis fought back, and a headed goal from former Atletico forward Juan Sabas just after the break gave the southerners a fighting chance.

But shortly afterwards referee Rubio inexplicably failed to signal a penalty when Roberto Solozabal brought down Alfonso Perez in the Atletico goalmouth.

The referee needed police protection from a shower of objects thrown from the stands at the final whistle. Similar crowd incidents have brought stiff fines from the Spanish soccer authorities.

### Third Division side advances

Third division club Numancia moved through to the quarter-finals after knocking out its third consecutive first division opponent last Wednesday.

Numancia drew 0-0 at Sporting Gijon, but its 2-1 victory in the first leg was enough to put it in the draw alongside Barcelona, Valencia, Zaragoza and Sevilla.

Numancia, who had beaten Real Sociedad and Racing Santander in earlier rounds, is in only 11th place in their group of the Spanish third division.

Athletic Bilbao's 1-0 victory

at Zaragoza was not enough for the 23-times winner, who had lost the first round 3-2 in Bilbao and went out on the away goals rule.

Sevilla became the first team this season to win at Compostela — who is riding high at second in the league. It defended Carlos Dominguez's solitary goal well to take the tie 3-1 on aggregate.

Barcelona shook off criticism of its recent form to beat second-division leader Hercules 4-1 after a goalless first leg.

A penalty by Montenegrin midfielder Predrag Mijatovic set

up last year's beaten finalist Valencia for a comfortable 3-0 win over Celta Vigo, loser in the 1994 final, after a 1-1 draw in the first leg.

Holders Deportivo Coruna, who have failed to find form this season, were beaten 2-1 at Tenerife and eliminated after drawing 1-1 in the first leg. Deportivo ended the game with nine men after Voro Gonzalez and Alfredo Santaelena were sent off for receiving two yellow cards. Tenerife lost Salvisa Jokanovic — scorer of the winning goal — in the same way.





Carl Veart: His diving header set Bramall Lane alight in their win over Arsenal.

# Blades win to give Kendall first victory

Sheffield United's Australian FA Cup hero Carl Veart is looking forward to a televised reunion with old mate Mark Bosnich after scoring the goal which saw off premiership big gun Arsenal.

With the Blades embroiled in a desperate battle against relegation this season, smiles at the club have been as rare as Sheffield Wednesday supporters at Bramall Lane (home of United).

But the 25-year-old striker, recalled after four matches on the sidelines, brought the famous old ground to bursting point when he dived to head home Dane Whitehouse's teasing cross after 68 minutes of last Wednesday night's third round replay.

Veart's sixth goal of



the season sealed a fourth round clash with another top flight outfit, Aston Villa, before the BBC cameras this Sunday.

And the tie will bring Veart face to face with Villa goalkeeper Bosnich, a fellow Australian international.

"We go back a long way and it will be great to meet up again," said Veart, bought for \$A515,350 from Adelaide City after he impressed United manager Howard Kendall's predecessor Dave Bassett on the club's tour of Australia in

the 1994 close season.

"We've played on the same side many times but hardly ever against each other. Mark is a great goalkeeper but we can put one past him."

Veart has 13 full international caps but due to club commitments missed the last two Socceroo games, against New Zealand in November.

His goal on Wednesday handed Howard Kendall a thrilling first victory as Sheffield United manager and left Arsenal's dreams of a cup double in tatters.

Kendall, a finalist as a teenager with Preston in 1964 and Wembley winner with Everton in 1984, ranked United's victory alongside his greatest FA Cup moments.

"It was a great moment for Carl, but most of all

for the supporters," said Kendall.

"They've come down in their numbers tonight. Hopefully they'll like what they've seen and will come back again."

United was equally impressive in the 1-1 draw at Highbury 11 days ago.

Veart curled an injury-time shot on to the roof of the net, as if to emphasise the Blades' overall superiority.

The Villa meeting will also bring veteran midfielder Gordon Cowans — who inspired the replay goal with an immaculately placed long ball to Whitehouse — the chance to face a club with which he has had three separate spells.

Cowans, a free transfer from Wolves, is one of six arrivals since Kendall took charge.

## Hammers sign Dumitrescu from Spurs

West Ham signed Romanian World Cup star Ilie Dumitrescu from London rival Tottenham for \$A3.11 million last week.

Dumitrescu, who has made only five first-team appearances for Spurs this season, is understood to be discussing personal terms with the Hammers after the two clubs agreed on a transfer fee last week.

If the deal goes through it will complete the exodus of the three big-money foreign signings Spurs made just 18 months ago.

German ace Jurgen Klinsmann returned home to Bayern Munich in an acrimonious move in the summer and Dumitrescu's Romanian team-mate, Gica Popescu, joined Barcelona.

Spurs are likely to show a loss of more than one million pounds on the Dumitrescu move having paid Steaua Bucharest \$A5.81 million for him, but manager Gerry Francis would almost certainly use the cash received from West Ham to step up his bid for out-of-favour

Sheffield Wednesday winger Andy Sinton.

Wednesday originally wanted \$A4.15 million for the former England player when Francis made a firm inquiry about him last month but now Hillsborough manager David Pleat could be ready to do business at a lower figure.

Dumitrescu, out of Spurs first-team plans apart from random appearances in times of injury crisis, is desperate for first-team football to press his claims for a place in the Romania side for the Euro '96.

He said: "I would be happy to join West Ham. My best position is just behind the two main strikers but Gerry Francis does not play that way." Dumitrescu scored five goals in eleven games after Spurs chairman Alan Sugar and former manager Ossie Ardiles swooped for him following a series of sparkling performances for Romania during the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.



Ilie Dumitrescu: Has made only five first team appearances this season.

## France '98 opener against Moldova

The successor to Terry Venables as England manager will open his World Cup qualifying campaign in the unknown territory of Moldova.

There will be little time to prepare for the trip into the unknown with the first Group 2 qualifier being played on Sunday, September 1 — just a few days into the new season.

Outgoing Venables and FA chief executive Graham Kelly negotiated the challenge to reach the finals in France in 1998 after four hours of bargaining with Italy, Poland, Georgia and the Moldovans in Warsaw.

They have come up with a well-balanced package of games which will give

### SCHEDULE

**1996**  
Sunday September 1 Moldova (away);  
Wednesday October 9 Poland (home);  
Saturday November 9 Georgia (away)

**1997**  
Wednesday February 12 Italy (home);  
Wednesday April 30 Georgia (home);  
Saturday May 31 Poland (away);  
Wednesday September 10 Moldova (home);  
Saturday October 11 Italy (away)

Venables' successor every chance of being successful.

But with the final game against group favourite Italy in Rome in October 1997, he will have to judge his campaign perfectly.

"Even if you picked out eight perfect solutions

someone could find holes in it because it's so difficult to negotiate the ideal strategy," said Venables, who will not have to see the programme through after his decision to quit following this year's European Championship.

## Honourary Irishman

Jack Charlton, the Englishman who captured Irish hearts as manager of their national team, is to be made an honorary citizen of Ireland.

An announcement by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dick Spring, last Wednesday said Charlton, who announced his retirement last month, and his wife Pat, would be made honorary citizens.

"In the space of 10 years, Jack Charlton steered Ireland to the finals of three major international soccer competitions," Spring said.

"During this period, the exploits of the team, and the exemplary conduct of its followers, were a source of pride to all of us. This enhanced Ireland's reputation in international sport and its standing as a tourist destination.

"Many Irish people have come to regard Jack Charlton as an honorary Irishman and I am glad that we will now be able to mark his retirement from international football management by making him and his wife, Pat, officially 'one of us'."



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## Hurstat Blacktown; True 'Family Club'

The big news for fans of the English game is that Geoff Hurst is coming to Sydney.

It is a brief visit but you can go to dinner with the only player to score a World Cup Final hat-trick. Your great opportunity is on Saturday, February 3 at Blacktown City Soccer Club.

Tickets are just \$30 each (pay by Feb 1) for this occasion which includes a three course dinner. You can book on 02 624 3344. Seats are limited.

Geoff Hurst was a star from the time he arrived at Upton Park to join West Ham United in 1959. He was a part of the magnificent Hammers sides which also contained the England captain Bobby Moore plus exciting flank attacker Martin Peters and the hardman of the team Billy Bonds.

You'll have the chance to ask him about his time at West Ham, his move to Stoke City in the Potteries and on to the Black Country to join West Bromwich Albion, after the dynamic striker has entertained you with some reminiscences of the World Game.

The tour to Sydney and Western Australia is billed as, "They think it's all over...it is now!" Tour.

These were the words that an emotional Kenneth Wolstenholme said at the very end of the 1966 World Cup Final, extra time period. Bobby Moore had moved

the ball forward to Hurst as the referee raised the whistle to his lips. Hurst blasted the ball goalwards.

It was not until a few moments later that the master goal-scorer realised he had in fact scored England's fourth goal and achieved the hat-trick.

The referee had blown for the goal and almost simultaneously ended the game. What a feat!

A gentleman by the name of John Orakoglu from a company called YZ Jewellers contacted me recently with an offer for all supporters clubs and Corporate business — specialising in Silver and Gold crafted logos for said organisations, to their own specific designs.

Prices vary of course depending on what it is you want exactly but for further information please write to John at: YZ Jewellers, PO Box 261, Palm Beach, Qld 4221 or phone (07) 5577 4935.

As John states: "Jewellery is something that lasts forever and isn't going to be made of plastic that breaks two minutes after buying it."

"Add to that, that it can be handed down through the years and so makes an ideal supporters keepsake". I can't argue with that so its over to you guys as ever.

A quick look at non-league football now.

I attended a match involving my boyhood team... Banbury United (the Puritans) in a game against local rivals Abingdon United in the Hellenic League.

Gone from Banbury's ground are the two old wooden stands after the tragic events of Bradford in 1895 but at least the club was one of the first to have the supporters pay 10 quid to have their face painted on the murals that were erected in front of them.

Obviously not enough cash came in and so the ground took on a strange look to that which I grew up with.

The day saw me eagerly awaiting the kick-off, memories of that dire defeat at the hands of Northampton Town in the early 70s in an FA Cup match still ranking.

Today was the day that such thoughts would be expunged. Attending with me was Sam Higgins from the local paper — the Banbury Guardian — and together we saw "our" United storm into a two goal lead early in the second half.

A left wing cross by Ian Castle was fired home by Neil Sole on 32 minutes before Castle scored the second 1 minutes after the break.

Banbury were cruising but the defence looked decidedly dodgy at times and so it proved when first Nick Haynes pulled one back after 68 minutes and a moment of sheer non-league style mayhem ensued when left back Mark Agnese scythed down Jamie Blackmore in the box to give Steve Brierty the chance to score from the spot.

End result being 2-2 and the Puritans once again snatching a draw from the brink of a much needed win.

A great day's non-league action which I thoroughly enjoyed along with the 80 or so crowd but the funny spot of the day... walking into the ground and immediately laying eyes on one of the substitutes for Banbury, a certain Phil Houghton, whom I used to go to school with but that's what non-league football is all about and what makes it so magical for all non-league fans.

Don't knock it until you've tried it, you don't know what you're missing.

West Ham v Queens Park Rangers was not the best game ever to have witnessed but the weather was awful.

Heavy rain and a greasy pitch didn't help at all but it was an open ended game and the Hammers deserved their 1-0 win.

Reasons for this game? Robbie Slater, Stan "the man" Lazaridis, Ned Zelic and the chance to run the rule over Trevor Sinclair, or so I thought!

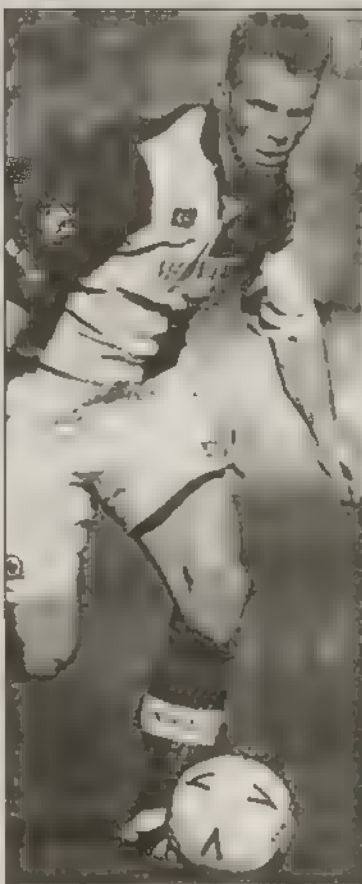
Only Slater played as he came on as sub for the last 20 minutes.

He looked sharp even for these sort of playing conditions and it remains a bit of a mystery as to why he was a sub?

Harry Redknapp admitted after the game that Lazaridis was carrying an injury but this is part and parcel of playing at the Boleyn Ground.

The amount of injuries sustained there is frightening.

My man of the match would have to be Ray



Robbie Slater: Looked sharp even in poor playing conditions. Why he was a sub is a mystery.

Wilkins but that's a suggestion open for debate of course.

My thanks to go to the club for their help and for looking after me so well, specially the lady who organised my tickets for me and although I didn't catch her name, is the secretary in charge of ticket office duties etc.

West Ham are one of the clubs that are known as a "Family Club" and certainly they lived up to this reputation, a credit to the game and traditions of football in the East End of London.

The following day — Sunday 26 — was my first visit to Highbury in over five years.

It was a real buzz to be back there and Managing Director Ken Frair had organised a ticket for me in the East Stand, Upper Tier, just to the right of the half-way line.

What a magnificent view and what a change to the ground!

The North Bank stand is very impressive indeed and the Jumbotron screens are a treat for all supporters.

More clubs should be investing in them to give the fans that "little extra" for their hard earned.

I won't say too much on this particular game as there will be a lot more news about Arsenal in future issues but I'll say this much... Blackburn came with a point and were certainly going to take at least that home with them.

For the Champions of the previous season to play almost a 10 man defence, it was a wonder they didn't obtain a collective nose-bleed if one of them crossed the half-way line.

Rovers were not a pretty team to watch that day and the Gunners could not find a way through no matter what they tried.

Glenn Helder came on for Martin Keown after 32 minutes through injury and played a blinder. He jinked his way all over the pitch and Dennis Bergkamp oozed class.

John Hartson played up front alongside Bergkamp because Ian Wright was still serving his latest suspension and although coming close a number of times, couldn't find the back of the net.

Very positive signs coming from the North London side but Rovers need to do something quickly after a performance like that. If this is how they approached games in Europe, it's no wonder they are out.

Looking for the positive signs on just that one performance from Blackburn, couldn't find any to be honest. Very poor showing.

Competition time: Winner will receive a LIMITED EDITION Mark Hughes T-shirt (one size only) which is black, carries gold colouring and bears the number 10 on the reverse. The question comes in three parts:

A/ Sparky was sold to which Spanish club in 1986/87?

B/ Which German side did they "loan" him to in 1987/88?

C/ Who does he play for now?

There now, that should be simple enough and answers must be in by February 10. The shirts (there will be more competitions to come) have been supplied by Mark at EURO-KIT, sellers of fine Official Merchandise and for a full list, please ask for same when sending in your answers.

These T-shirts are very sought after, especially as the player no longer plays for the club. Answers to usual address please which appears on this page.

## FANZINE REVIEW

### SURVIVAL OF THE FATTIES

AN ALTERNATIVE REVIEW  
OF THE 1994/95 SEASON

What a particular title gem this book is even though, unfortunately, it's only sold in the UK. Described as "...the ultimate bog read"! It surely is that. It consists of over 100

fanzine editor's accounts on how their particular club's season went with all the pitfalls and joys of your average year in following the game.

Many well known fanzines appear in the pages including those from Arsenal, Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers, Newcastle United, Tottenham Hotspur, Everton, West Ham United, Middlesbrough, Birmingham City, Carlisle United, Cambridge United and many, many more. Each Fanzine has

between two-three pages to summarise the events of the year just past and it makes for fascinating reading.

The little "odds", if you like, is the fact that the fanzines are listed alphabetically and not the conventional way of listing the "zines by club first."

This makes for a mish-mash appearance that really holds the interest because you never know which one is coming up next.

It's unique amongst football

books as it brings together the views of many supporters through the voice of the fanzine movement which is at the front of the "terrace phenomenon of the 80s and 90s" to coin a phrase from the book.

All views are those of the individual writer/fanzine and may not be those of the editor of the book but all are full accounts in their very best unexpurgated form.

With last year being the "Annus Horribilus" as it's been

called many times, the season of sleaze can be read in all it's glory from those that matter — the supporters.

Some accounts are fun reading, some quite factual and others downright depressing but what better insight into the world of Premier and Endslough League football than through the eyes of those that follow it through every game — home and away.

Very, very impressive book published by Red Car Publishing and compiled by

David Jenkins and Judi Holly, it is certainly one of the best football books doing the rounds — especially on the alternative scene (daft name to lumber what is after all the people game and the peoples view).

If there's any chance of these books being available in Australia (doubtful), we'll let you know but if you have a mate travelling to the UK, make sure and get them to pick you up a copy on the way back. Brilliant stuff!



## 'Boro expects Robson to stay

Bryan Robson (below), the favorite to succeed Terry Venables as England's national coach, may not be able to take the job even if it's offered.

Robson still has 18 months on his contract with Premier club Middlesbrough and club chief executive Keith Lamb said last week Robson had assured him he'd fulfill the contract.

"I don't know whether Bryan will be manager of England," Lamb said. "What I do know is that next summer and next season he will be manager of Middlesbrough."



"We haven't been approached by England for permission to speak to Bryan or to even ask him if he would be interested in the job.

But I have had a categoric reassurance from Bryan that he will still be our manager for the next one-and-a-half years at least."

A five-man panel has been named by the Football Association to find a replacement for Venables, who said he would resign after this June's European Championships.

The panel members are English FA chief executive Graham Kelly, Bert Millichip, 81, FA chairman; Noel White, 66, chairman of the FA international committee; Keith Wiseman, 50, lawyer, Southampton director; and Chris Wilcox, 72, FA vice chairman.

Notably absent is Oldham chairman Ian Stott, who had questioned giving Venables a two-year contract extension. Stott's comments were believed to have influenced Venables' decision to resign.

Robson is believed to be at the head of list of candidates that also includes Tottenham manager Gerry Francis, Chelsea boss Glenn Hoddle, Newcastle's Kevin Keegan, and Queens Park Rangers' Ray Wilkins. All five have initially said they wouldn't take the job.

# Search for Charlton successor continues

BY BILL PIERCE  
OF THE PRESS  
ASSOCIATION

The Republic of Ireland's search for a new soccer manager to succeed Jack Charlton could bring it into conflict with England's bid to replace Terry Venables.

Top Premiership bosses such as Joe Royle and Howard Wilkinson are already on the Irish wanted-list.

Kenny Dalglish, the former Blackburn manager and now director of football there, still looks favourite to be offered the Ireland job, but no decision looks likely until next month.

Former Arsenal manager George Graham, currently serving a one-year world ban from soccer after being found guilty last June by the English FA of accepting bung payments, has been linked with the Ireland job.

But although Ireland is unlikely to start its World Cup program until after



George Graham: Backlash inevitable, should he be appointed?

Graham's ban expires, it is believed the FA is wary of the backlash of publicity that would

inevitably follow such an appointment.

Football Association of Ireland president Louis

Kilcoyne said: "I'm not saying who they are, but the names on our list of potential candidates are the ones you would expect from all the speculation in the press. I don't think there are any surprises in there - or that there will be any springers."

Everton's Royle and Leeds United's Wilkinson, who are likely to come into consideration for the England job, are probably also on the Irish list along with "bookmakers" favourites Mick McCarthy of Millwall and Joe Kinnear of Wimbledon.

Manchester United is also likely to be approached over Alex Ferguson's availability.

The FAI has turned down Maurice Setters' offer to remain as a caretaker-manager until the new man arrives, although Irish soccer chiefs plan another meeting soon with the man who was Charlton's No.2 for nearly 10 years.

Setters said: "I have not resigned although many people assume I have just



Kenny Dalglish: Favourite to take over Ireland.

followed Jack out of the door.

"I still consider I am employed by the FAI and it is just a case of waiting to see what arrangement we now come to.

"But my offer to carry on and keep things ticking over was rejected."

Ireland has only one confirmed international friendly for the rest of this season, against the Czech Republic in Prague on March 27.

# Topsy-turvy life of Carlisle

Carlisle United started in 1904 when Shaddongate United changed their name to Carlisle United to establish themselves as a representative Carlisle team.

Carlisle United joined Third Division north when elected in place of Durham City. Their first league victory came over Accrington Stanley in August 1928.

During World War II Carlisle only played local football for reasons of travel, the distance problem has always adversely affected player purchases.

Managers came and went, including Ivor Broadis, player manager at just 23, and the legendary Bill Shankly. Alan Ashman became manager in 1963 and by the time he left, Carlisle were in third place in the old Second Division (1967).

While Bob Stokoe was in charge Carlisle consolidated their Second Division status.

In 1972 Alan Ashman returned as manager and two years later Carlisle were promoted to Division One. Bill Shankly described it as 'the greatest feat in the history of the game.'

It was in this season that my Grandfather was over and saw them play. He loved it and in the next few years remembered their clashes with Sunderland in the FA Cup with great fondness.

In fact on my last trip to

## PASSIONATE CARLISLE UNITED FAN STUART JONES WRITES ABOUT HIS FAVOURITE CLUB.

the UK, I met Allan Ross who told me about those games from his perspective, that is in the Carlisle goal.

Unfortunately Carlisle's success was short lived. After three games they stood at the top of the heap but fell away to finish last. That season they did the double over Everton and took three points off Derby County (the eventual champions).

They passed Manchester United on the way back down so United are the only team Carlisle have not played in League football.

In 1981 Carlisle just avoided a drop to Division Four by one point, but the return of Bob Stokoe triggered a brief revival. In 1982 they returned to Division Two.

The team were relegated four years later and could not avoid successive drops to be back in Division Four for the first time since 1964. Gate takings also fell and only 1287 people saw the League game versus Chester in May 1987.

In 1987/88 only Newport County stood between

Carlisle and Conference League football. Fortunately when the club did finish last in 1992, Aldershot's mid season resignation and a temporary suspension of the automatic relegation rule (has it really ever returned???) meant Carlisle were not relegated.

In the summer of 1992

Michael Knighton took over and announced his radical (fanciful) 10 year plan of European football at Brunton Park (of course we have played in Italy before, and not in pre season!).

Ten games into the season I went over to see them play and was a constant visitor. In 1981 my Grandfather had introduced me to football at Highbury (no its not a contradiction in terms) and since then I have followed English football even though all my friends loved League.

While I could not watch the Blues play I followed their scores, and seeing them play was a dream come true, even if I was in a crowd of 2000 and we were losing, I

was still there and that was what was important to me.

I even bought my Grandfather the latest strip (even if we had come last in the season previous). My Grandfather lived only a few months and the last time I saw him alive he wore his Carlisle shirt.

I cherish that shirt to this day, and will do so for ever. I would support Carlisle and people would wonder who I was talking about, but people soon learnt.

But in Cumbria the Blues started playing winning football and in 1994 they reached the play offs under the coaching guidance of Mick Wadsworth.

I returned to England's



shores in January for six months to see Carlisle win the Third Division (after many attempts to stuff it up) and play at Wembley for the first time (that dramatic extra time loss to Birmingham in the Auto Shield Windscreen cup final) with 26,999 other Blues supporters. I also met the staff and players and went to training sessions.

They are great guys, all down to earth and ready to

help Aussie supporters. Hopefully another bright era has begun for border football. On the east coast the likes of Newcastle and Middlesbrough have shown (dare we say even Sunderland might) but do not forget Carlisle in the west.

A new stadium is rising and hopefully we will meet Manchester United in the Premier League one day soon. In the meantime at least I do not have to stay up as long to hear Carlisle's results as they are now in the Second Division.

There is only one United and the mighty Blue army will always follow it... CARLISLE UNITED!

## RATINGS OF ENGLISH GROUNDS

TEAM  
GROUND  
ADDRESS

CAPACITY  
RECORD GATE  
DEBUT  
BY RAIL  
COMMENTS

ACCESSIBILITY  
RATING /5  
OVERALL GROUND  
RATING /10

IPSWICH  
Portman Road  
Ipswich IP1 2DA

22,559  
38,010 (1975)  
1888  
Ipswich  
Very tall ground. Inside redevelopment shows it up as a fine, good ground.

3

7.5

LEEDS UNITED  
Elland Road  
Leeds LS11 0ES

40,000  
57,892 (1967)  
1920  
Leeds City  
Excellent. Enormous Unique. Outstanding. Yes I liked this ground!

3.5

10

LEICESTER CITY  
City Stadium  
Filbert Street  
Leicester LE2 7FL

22,517  
47,298 (1928)  
1891  
Leicester  
Going to be huge once work on last stand finished. Fantastic inside. I saw the old and the new is incomparable. Shows Justice Taylors report has helped many clubs - including this one!

3

8



# '6 FROM 38 POOLS'

## THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 548  
SAT. 27TH JANUARY, 1996

F.A. CUP 4TH ROUND SPONSORED BY LITTLEWOODS	BOLTON	LEEDS	1
	CHARLTON	BRENTFORD	2
	COVENTRY	L'TER OR M. CITY	3
	FHAM OR S'BURY	LIVERPOOL	4
	HUDDERSFIELD	PETERBORO	5
	IP'CH OR B'BURN	WALSALL	6
	MIDDLESBRO	W'FORD OR W'DON	7
	READING	M. UTD. OR S'LAND	8
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	SOUTHAMPTON	CREWE	9
	SWINDON	B'SLEY OR O'HAM	10
	WEST HAM	GRIMSBY	11
	BRADFORD C.	NOTTS COUNTY	12
	BURNLEY	BRISTOL R.	13
	CARLISLE	ROTHERHAM	14
	WREXHAM	BOURNEMOUTH	15
	WYCOMBE	BRIGHTON	16
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	YORK	CHESTERFIELD	17
	CHESTER	WIGAN A.	18
	COLCHESTER	CAMBRIDGE U.	19
	EXETER	CARDIFF	20
	GILLINGHAM	BARNET	21
	LEYTON O.	SCARBORO	22
	NORTHAMPTON	HARTLEPOOL	23
	PRESTON	BURY	24
G.M. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE LEAGUE	ROCHDALE	TORQUAY	25
	SCUNTHORPE	LINCOLN	26
	BATH	KID'MINSTER	27
	BROMSGROVE	MORECAMBE	28
	DAG'HAM & R.	RUNCORN	29
	DOVER	ALTRINCHAM	30
	GATESHEAD	WOKING	31
	HEDNESFORD	STEVENAGE	32
N.I.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION	NORTHWICH	KETTERING	33
	SOUTHPORT	SLOUGH	34
	STALYBRIDGE	FARNBORO	35
	TELFORD	HALIFAX	36
	WELLING UTD	MACCLESFIELD	37
	* AYLESBURY	MOLESEY	38
	RESERVE MATCHES		
	BOREHAM W.	HENDON	39
FENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP THIRD ROUND	CARSHALTON	BROMLEY	40
	CHERTSEY	WORTHING	41
	ENFIELD	PURFLEET	42
	GRAYS	YEOVIL	43
	HAYES	SUTTON UTD	44
	HITCHIN	YEADING	45
	BISHOP AUCK.	BAMBER BR.	46
	CHORLEY	ACCRINGTON	47
FENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP THIRD ROUND	COLWYN BAY	GAINSBORO	48
	CLYDEBANK	STIRLING A.	49
	DUMBARTON	AIRDRIE	50
	DUNFERMLINE	ST MIRREN	51
	FALKIRK	STENH'MUIR	52
	G'N'CK MORTON	MONTROSE	53
	HAMILTON	ST JOHNSTONE	54
	HEARTS	PARTICK	55

\* I.C.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION  
† UNIBOND LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

SCORE DRAWS ARE CALCULATED FROM GAME 38 BACKWARD

## GET YOUR POOLS IN

Don't forget  
Pools Quick Pick

## MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 547  
SAT. 20TH JANUARY, 1996

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION	ARSENAL	EVERTON	1	1-2
	BLACKBURN	SHEFFIELD WED.	2	3-0
	CHELSEA	NOTTINGHAM F.	3	1-0
	MAN. CITY	COVENTRY	4	1-1
	NEWCASTLE	BOLTON	5	2-1
	WEST HAM	MAN. UTD	6	N/A
	WIMBLEDON	QPR	7	2-1
	BARNLEY	CRYSTAL P.	8	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CHARLTON	WEST BROM.	9	4-1
	GRIMSBY	MILLWALL	10	1-2
	HUDDERSFIELD	OLDHAM	11	0-0
	READING	STOKE	12	1-0
	SHEFFIELD UTD	WATFORD	13	1-1
	SOUTHEND	PORTSMOUTH	14	2-1
	WOLVES	TRANMERE	15	2-1
	BLACKPOOL	BRISTOL C.	16	3-X
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BOURNEMOUTH	BRADFORD C.	17	3-1
	BRENTFORD	YORK	18	2-0
	BRIGHTON	PETERBORO	19	1-2
	BRISTOL R.	CARLISLE	20	1-1
	CHESTERFIELD	OXFORD UTD	21	1-0
	CREWE	WYCOMBE	22	2-0
	NOTTS COUNTY	WREXHAM	23	1-0
	ROTHERHAM	BURNLEY	24	1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	SHREWSBURY	SWANSEA	25	1-2
	STOCKPORT	WALSALL	26	0-1
	SWINDON	HULL	27	3-0
	BARNET	HEREFORD	28	1-3
	BURY	NORTHAMPTON	29	0-1
	CAMBRIDGE U.	SCUNTHORPE	30	1-2
	CARDIFF	ROCHDALE	31	1-0
	DARLINGTON	EXETER	32	1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	HARTLEPOOL	CHESTER	33	2-1
	LINCOLN	PRESTON	34	0-0
	MANSFIELD	FULHAM	35	1-0
	PLYMOUTH	COLCHESTER	36	1-1
	SCARBORO	DONCASTER	37	0-2
	TORQUAY	LEYTON O.	38	2-1

## RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney  
0055 29043; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07)  
11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.  
Results are available from 8pm.  
Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

## THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 20/1/96 WEEK 547

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED										NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURRED									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
11	104	121	100	141	111	141	100	141	141	141	141	141	141	141	141	141	141	141	141
21	25	210	211	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246
31	14	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools

## RESULTS OF WEEK 547 SAT. JANUARY 20, 1996

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):

4, 8, 13, 20, 34, 36.

Supplementary Number 11.

## SOCCER POOLS FORM GUIDE

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE										SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION									
Newcastle	23	17	3	3	45	19	54			Rochdale	24	9	5	10	34	29	32		
Liverpool	25	12	8	5	46	21	42			Hereford	24	7	10	7	35	30	31		
Manchester Utd	23	12	6	5	41	27	42			Leyton Orient	27	8	7	12	26	36	31		
Tottenham	24	11	8	5	33	24	41			Exeter	26	6	12	8	27	31	30		
Aston Villa	22	11	6	5	29	16	39			Barnet	26	6	12	8	27	32	30		
Blackburn	24	11	5	8	37	26	38			Souththorpe	23	7	8	8	33	30	29		
Arsenal	24	10	7	7	32	24	37			Hartlepool	24	7	8	9	26	34	29		
Nottingham Forest	23	9	10	4	33	32	37			Cardiff	26	7	8	11	24	30	29		
Everton	24	10	6	8	35	26	36			Mansfield	25	5	12	8	32	43	27		
Chelsea	24	9	9	6	25	25	36			Fulham	24	5	11	8	29	33	26		
Leeds	23	10	5	8	30	32	35			Lincoln	25	6	8	11	24	38	26		
Middlesbrough	24	9	6	9	26	26	33			Scarborough	25	5	10	10	26	36	25		
Sheffield Wed	23	6	8	9	33	36	26			Torquay	25	3	8	14	22	47	17		
Wolves	24	6	6	12	33	46	24			SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION									
West Ham	21	6	5	10	22	32	21			Rangers	24	17	5	2	55	13	56		
Southampton	23	5	8	10	22	33	23			Celtic	24	16	7	1	43	18	55		
Coventry	23	4	8	11	29	45	20			Hearts	24	10	4	10	37	37	34		
Manchester City	23	5	5	13	13	33	20			Aberdeen	22	10	3	9	33	25	33		
QPR	24	5	3	16	18	36	18			Hibernian	24	9	6	9	33	40	33		
Bolton	24	3	4	17	23	46	13			St Mirren	22	6	5	9	25	33	29		
ENGLISH DIVISION ONE										Kilmarnock	23	7	5	11	28	36	26		
Derby	27	14	8	5	45	30	50			Partick	23	5	5	13	15	34	20		
Charlton	26	12	9	5	39	28	45			Falkirk	23	5	4	14	19	36	19		
Huddersfield	28	11	9	8	37	32	42			Motherwell	23	2	10	11	13	28	16		
Southend	27	11	8	8	31	32	41			SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE									
Leicester	26	10	9	7	40	36	39			Dundee Utd	24	13	7	4	44	25	46		
Stoke	27	10	9	8	37	33	39			Dunfermline	21	13	2	6	41	21	41		
Sunderland	24	10	9	5	30	20	39			Greenock Morton	21	12	3	6	36	24	39		
Millwall	27	10	9	8	29	33	39			Dundee	23	10	7	6	36	29	37		
Nottingham	28	10	5	10	39	34	36			St Johnstone	22	9	6	7	30	22	33		
Birmingham	26	10	8	8	37	36	38			Aberdeen	22	7	8	7	27	29	29		
Ipswich	26	9	10	7	47	37	37			St Mirren	22	7	7	8	27	31	28		
Barnsley	27	9	10	8	35	42	37			Clydebank	22	6	7	9	25	32	25		
Grimsby	26	9	10	7	32	32	37			Hamilton	22	3	5	14	19	36	14		
Tranmere	25	9	7	8	36	29	34			Dumbarton	21	3	2	16	17	53	11		
Crystal Palace	25	8	10	7	32	33	34			SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO									
Portsmouth	28	8	8	12	44	46	32			East Fife	20	14	3	3	27	14	45		
Oldham	26	7	11	8	34	29	32			Stirling	21	12	7	2	45	20	43		
Reading	26	7	10	9	32	36	31			Stenhousemuir	21	10	4	7	37	27	34		
Port Vale	27	7	9	11	33	40	30			Berwick	20	9	5	6	36	21	32		
Wolverhampton	26	6	10	10	32	37	28			Stannerra	21	5	12	4	25	26	27		
West Bromwich	26	7	4	15	29	45	25			Clyde	19	5	8	6	21	15	23		
Walsall	25	5	10	10	28	32	25			Forfar	20	5	5	9	18	24	23		
Luton	25	6	7	12	23	37	25			Ayr	20	5	6	9	19	26	19		
Sheff Utd	26	5	8	13	33	45	23			Queen of the South	19	2	8	9	23	38	14		
ENGLISH DIVISION TWO										Montrose	21	2	4	15	18	46	10		
Swindon	25	14	8	3	42	17	50			SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE									
Clewe	24	14	5	5	46	26	47			Livingston	20	11	4	5	25	13	37		
Blackpool	24	12	7	5	38	24	43			Caledonian Thistle	20	10	6	4	46	20	36		
Notts County	23	12	7	4	35	19	43			Brechin	20	10	6	4	24	12	36		
Charlton	24	11	7	6	36	25	40			Arbroath	21	9	7	5	28	27	34		
Burnley	24	10	8	6	39	31	38			Ross County	20	8	9	3	34	22	33		
Bournemouth	26	11	5	10	33	36	38			Cowdenbeath	21	8	3	10	32	37	32		
Bradford	25	11	4	10	36	40	37			Queen's Park	22	6	6	10	24	29	24		
Shrewsbury	26	11	4	11	35	35	37			East Stirling	21	5	5	11	33	43	20		
Wrexham	24	8	11	5	35	27	35			Alba	20	4	7	9	18	32	19		
Wycombe	24	8	11	5	31	25	35			Albion	21	5	1	15	25	54	16		
Bristol Rovers	26	9	8	9	30	36	35			VAUXHALL CONFERENCE									
Walsall	24	9	8	7	28	18	35			Macclesfield	23	15	3	5	37	28	48		
Oxford	24	9	7	8	31	25	34			Woking	23	12	5	4	40	24	41		
Stockport	26	8	9	9	32	29	32			Stevenage	19	12	4	3	51	24	40		
Bristol City	26	7	9	10	25	37	30			Hednesford	22	2	2	6	37	20	38		
Peterborough	24	7	6	9	34	28	38			Kidderminster	23	11	4	8	45	34	37		
Rotherham	25	7	7	11	30	39	28			Bromsgrove	24	9	8	7	39	38	35		
Carlisle	26	5	10	11	31	40	25			Southport	21	10	4	7	43	34	34		
York	24	7	4	13	27	39	25			Morecambe	20	10	3	7	38	35	33		
Swansea	25	5	9	11	26	42	24			Gateshead	22	9	6	7	25	23	33		
Bradford	24	6	8	12	31	31	42			Farnborough	19	9	5	6	32	26	32		
Bridgton	25	6	8	14	15	23	40			Halifax	23	9	5	9	28	29	32		
Hull	24	2	14	18	16	43	14			Northwich	20	9	4	7	33	31	31		
ENGLISH DIVISION THREE										Kettering	23	8	5	10	42	29	29		
Gillingham	25	14	7	4	33	10	49			Slough	22	8	4	10	38	42	28		
Preston	25	11	12	2	31	23	45			Slaybridge	23	8	3	12	26	33	27		
Chesham	20	12	8	1	44	31	44			Altrincham	22	6	7	9	28	34	25		
Doncaster	25	12	5	8	31	32	41			Bath	23	7	2	14	20	37	23		
Colchester	25	10	10	5	38	30	40			Welling	22	5	7	10	28	33	22		
Darlington	25	10	9	6	28	24	39			Runcorn	22	6	4	12	31	50	22		
Plymouth	25	10	8	7	40	28	38			Diener	22	5	4	13	27	42	19		
Bury	25	9	9	7	29	31	36			Dagenham	24	4	7	13	25	43	19		
Wigan	25	9	8	8	33	32	35			Telford	19	4	5	10	20	20	32		
Northampton	25	9	7	6	28	25	34												
Cambridge	25	9	6	10	39	43	33												



# Ince recalled to England squad

English player Paul Ince was given the chance to re-establish himself in the national team following his inclusion in a 25-man squad named last week by national coach Terry Venables.

Venables is organising a training camp this week and has also included uncapped players Alan Wright and Ugo Ehiogu of Aston Villa and Tottenham's Sol Campbell in his party.

Despite talks with Southampton manager Dave Merrington, Venables has not included the Saints' gifted Matthew Le Tissier.

The recall of Ince, who plays for Italian club Internazionale, will address a weakness in midfield, where Paul Gascoigne has at times had to operate alone in an anchor role.

Ince, who joined Inter from Manchester United in the off season, has been out of the team for nearly a year but Venables has included him following an improvement in his form in Italy after a difficult start.

Wright has been included because Graeme Le Saux of Blackburn will miss Euro '96 through injury.

"With Graeme Le Saux sadly unavailable Wright is the one new name," said Venables.

"He and Le Saux used to be rivals for the same position at Blackburn Rovers. Alan, like Graeme, is a very quick as well as a very good footballer who has always impressed me."

Venables added: "The countdown for Euro '96 is on. Just five months to go. The players know it. I know it."



Paul Ince: Back in favour after improved form.

"Getting them together in January gives us the chance to do the detailed work which has not been possible until now. Usually we have been preparing for specific opposition. My aim is to make a good side a better side."

**Goalkeepers** - David Seaman (Arsenal), Ian Walker (Tottenham), Tim Flowers (Blackburn)

**Defenders** - Gary Neville (Manchester United), Rob Jones (Liverpool), Tony Adams (Arsenal), Steve Howey (Newcastle), Gareth Southgate, Ugo Ehiogu, Alan Wright (all Aston Villa),

Stuart Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Sol Campbell (Tottenham)

**Midfielders** - Paul Gascoigne (Glasgow Rangers), David Platt (Arsenal), Robert Lee (Newcastle), Paul Ince (Inter Milan), Steve Stone (Nottingham Forest), Trevor Sinclair (Queen's Park Rangers), Steve McManaman (Liverpool)

**Forwards** - Dennis Wise (Chelsea), Les Ferdinand, Peter Beardsley (both Newcastle), Nick Barmby (Middlesbrough), Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham), Alan Shearer (Blackburn).

## Honours for Reds & Blues



The soccer-mad English city of Liverpool is to give its two Premier League clubs the highest honour it can bestow, officials said.

Everton and Liverpool will be given the freedom of the city - an award usually reserved for outstanding individuals - in a ceremony on February 1 in recognition of their success and their contribution to local life.

Council leader Harry Rimmer said it was a fitting honour to bestow on them after an outstanding year.

Everton won the English FA Cup last season and Liverpool won the League Cup.

# Rangers exchange Russian for Dutchman



Peter Van Vossen: To Rangers from Istanbulspor.

Scottish club Glasgow Rangers last week swapped forwards with Turkish team Istanbulspor, sending Russian Oleg Salenko to Turkey for Dutch star Peter van Vossen.

The 27-year-old Dutch international said he was happy to leave Turkey after being transferred there last year from Ajax.

"I'm very happy to be here," Van Vossen told reporters. "I had a lot of problems in Turkey communicating with the other players and I did not play well."

"Now this is a big chance for me to come back into European football," he added. "I know Rangers are the biggest club in Scotland and I know a few of the players by name. It will take me a few days to get fully fit but then I hope I will be ready to play."

The move by manager Walter Smith is aimed at bringing Rangers their eighth straight Scottish Premier Division crown. They have a two-point lead over Celtic.

## Referee suffers cut from missile

Scottish Premier Division side Aberdeen was asked last week to explain how referee Michael McCurry was hit by a missile during the January 14 match with Celtic at Pittodrie. McCurry suffered a cut to the back of the head when an object was thrown from one corner of the ground.

The matter will go before the SFA's disciplinary committee, with the Pittodrie club facing possible punishment.

The area pointed out to police by the official in the 69th-minute incident was occupied by home fans.

Police are still investigating the incident, which came in a 2-1 win for Celtic.

# Ardiles to try luck in Japan

Ossie Ardiles (right) is adding Japan to his chequered soccer career.

The Argentine said he would take over as coach of J-League club Shimizu S-Pulse this week when he joined his new players for pre-season training in Hong Kong.

"I'm really pleased. I had feelers out for both Japan and the United States but this is much the better option in footballing terms," Ardiles said.

Ardiles said that the little he knew about Shimizu was that they finished in fourth place in the J-League last season and had been in the running for the title since the league was created four years ago but had not won it yet.

Daniele Massaro, the veteran Italian former international striker, is one of Shimizu's foreign players.

Ardiles, who helped Argentina win the World Cup in 1978, has played soccer in England and France as well as his native country and coached in Mexico.

The 43-year-old Argentine has been sacked by three clubs in a managerial career that began at English second division Swindon in July 1989.

He had 11 months at Newcastle United before being sacked in February 1992. He moved on to West Bromwich Albion.

In June 1993, he took on what for him was the dream job, manager of Tottenham Hotspur where he spent his best years as a



player, an inspiring midfielder who helped Spurs win the English FA Cup in 1981.

But the dream turned to nightmare, with Ardiles getting the sack 16 months later as his attractive, attacking side failed to prosper because of a sieve-like defence. Ardiles took on Guadalajara of Mexico last July on a one-year contract but lasted only four months in the job.

## Collective sense of responsibility

English Premier League clubs last week said they would not enter teams in this year's Intertoto Cup and pledged their unanimous support to Tottenham and Wimbledon in their battle against a ban imposed by UEFA.

The two clubs were last week banned for a season from European competition by the region's governing body after fielding under-strength teams in last year's event.

Spurs chairman Alan Sugar has always insisted his club only entered the competition as a favour to the FA, while Spurs coach Gerry Francis is on record as saying he has "plenty of written evidence" to the effect the London side had permission to field a below-strength team.

But UEFA disciplinary chief Rene Eberle disagreed. He said UEFA had

insisted from the outset: "We were not going to tolerate this negative attitude."

Premiership chief executive Rick Parry said: "This decision has been taken purely on practical considerations, in particular the overlap with Euro '96 and the finish and start dates of the Premiership season."

"This is a decision relating purely to 1996 and we look forward to a constructive dialogue with UEFA on future competitions. We recognise that if we do enter in future years then it needs to be done properly and wholeheartedly."

Parry stressed the FA felt a "collective sense of responsibility" over the European ban for Spurs and Wimbledon.

# BRITISH SOCCER

ON THE PHONE  
FROM 6:30AM  
SUNDAYS

# 00555 2200

00555 0022 - AUST SCORES

INPHO - 75CENTS/MINUTE HIGHER MOBILES & PAY PHONES



# Johnnie Walker Cup

## MATCHES THIS WEEK

### ROUND 2 - QUARTER FINALS



**BYES**  
**ADELAIDE CITY**  
**CANBERRA COSMOS**



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 23**  
**SOUTH MELBOURNE**  
**MARCONI FAIRFIELD**  
BOB JANE STADIUM - 7.30PM



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 23**  
**NEWCASTLE BREAKERS**  
**UTS OLYMPIC**  
BREAKERS STADIUM - 7.30PM



### SEMI-FINALS



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25**  
**ADELAIDE CITY**  
**WINNER - OLYMPIC v NEWCASTLE**  
VENUE AND TIME - TBA - PHONE 0055 66595



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25**  
**CANBERRA COSMOS**  
**WINNER - S. MELB. v MARCONI**  
VENUE AND TIME - TBA - PHONE 0055 66595



### CUP FINAL



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27**  
**WINNER SEMI-FINAL 1**  
**WINNER SEMI-FINAL 2**  
VENUE AND TIME - TBA - PHONE 0055 66595



Johnnie Walker ©



Johnnie Walker ©

ERICSSON



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